

Oct. 18, 1874,

...[per]fectly happy. I thought I should be perfectly miserably to be here at all this year without '74 - but I have managed, even with the loss of Helen Lough in addition, to spend some of the pleasantest times I know of in V.C. The studying thus far has been comparatively easy and we have had a good deal of leisure time for pleasanter occupation. Nearly every evening we have a sewing bee, upon a small scale in our room and one of the girls reads aloud making the evening pass very quickly. Our senior parlor, which by the way, looks very well not withstanding the fun you made of me about it, is a real good place to waste time- Yes I freely confess I have been lazy but at the same time I think it nothing more than fair I should be if I want to- I have ^done my duty here faithfully for four years and its time I "let up" a little. Of course I have quantities of outside work to do, I never knew the time when I didn't. I am only on four committees at present- but I rather enjoy it. We are now getting scenery for our new Hall. I tell you we are going to be very fine some of these days- You must come up and see the wonderful improvements. Couldn't you, in your numerous trips to N.Y. find time to get a little further. The longer my friends put off visiting me the more I will have to show them when they do arrive and this is my consolation. Until this year I never knew there were so many pretty places around here. I can't tell how many miles I have walked [~~crossed out: since~~] ^this fall the air has been so exhilarating

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and the views so grand that we would hate to return back. We have in our various perambulations, come across several cider mills, where you would have been surprised, probably shocked, to have seen us stop and refresh ourselves. It is just jolly to be a Senior ^they [~~crossed out: you~~] have so much better times than other folks I would not have missed the good times I have had this year for any thing. Why do you always say I am home sick - it makes me very indignant - if you were writing to Lizzie that might probably have been appropriate - but I certainly have had enough experience to dispel all such ideas. Lizzie has not forgotten your apple, but she dont think she has found one sufficiently large yet. She has not the privilege of trotting round through the orchards as her sister - but then you know it was not to come from me. The introduction of whist at this stage of my course is an enjoyment before unknown in these premises. Prof. Backus invited me in their house to have a game in the early part of the year and I have been going very frequently since I have lots of fun and the girls in my parlor are fearfully jealous of me - which enlivens things considerably. I expect, after all this you will think I might as well be home, for all the studying I do- but I assure you it is not the case- Listen if you please to one sentence in our Mental Philosophy for tomorrow and say you dont blame me for spending - well I wont say how long on it before I (clearly) (got the idea) into my head

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"For as doubt is itself only a manifestation of consciousness, it is impossible to doubt that, when consciousness manifests, it does manifest, without, in thus doubting, doubting that we actually doubt."

My gracious, I have a fearful... [incomplete]

Lucy (Sellers) Barnes, 75,