

Hartford Ct.
July 15, 1868.

My Dear Belle.

I found your letter awaiting me, when I reached home, for I did not return to Boston (am I crazy?— I mean Hartford) until the Tuesday after Commencement. Several of us had been planning for some time before, to stay at the college a few days, to pack, rest, visit &c., and the fact that Mr. Vassar was to be buried Friday quite decided us to remain. — Of course we enjoyed it, and it was much more satisfactory to say "good-bye", at leisure, than in the general hurry and bustle of the breaking up. — In reply to your question with respect to the fitness of continuing our exercises, I have time only to say, that I am sure had you been there you would have taken a different view of it. Mr. Vassar's calm peaceful death, in the midst of his work, or rather when his work was done (for he expected this address to end his business connection with the college) seemed no fitting reason for the suspension of our work, the accomplishment of which we owed to the friends who had come so far. You know we did suspend the exercises of Class Day, really the event of the occasion, and when the first excitement was over, and everything was taken into consideration, everyone of those who have the interests of Vassar College much more at heart than people near Boston felt that Mr. Vassar himself would have said, "Finish your work." — I wish I could tell you about the funeral &c, but that topic must wait, for with the thermometer nearing 100° I cannot talk long, and I have something else I wish particularly to say to you. I'm in "a statte of mind". I am afraid I engaged myself too hastily to Mr. Cushing. And yet, I did the best I could then, and even now, I like the idea of being at H better than anywhere else. But, Mr. Pratt, of whom I spoke to you, has since offered me \$1000.00 at Hightstown, and I have received an offer as preceptress of a large institution of good standing, among friends. And likewise hints of other places, if I were not already engaged. — I have never received a word from Mr. Cushing since I wrote to him — I am in uncertainty what class I am to have beside those in Mathematics, and that I am anxious to know; on looking over the letter I think your interpretation about the 'washing' improbable, and yet there is the possibility. Now, it does seem a pity to take the small sum he offers me, when I am really bothered with much better offers, and yet on the other hand, having decided to go to Auburndale having arranged all my plans on that basis { having become accustomed to, and pleased with, the idea of being near yourself, Boston, Miss Mitchell, Mary W, &c, I very much incline to go there in spite of all. But hear from Mr. C. I must, for my peace of mind. You said he was about to go away for the summer. Will you have the kindness to tell me the address which will reach him most quickly? And tell me also, frankly, what you should think, and in what light you suppose he would be likely to view it, if I should ask to be released from my engagement with him. I am not at all certain that I should do so even were he willing, and yet it seems like wasting my opportunities to go there. At least I must hear something more definitely from him. — I dislike to trouble you with the matter, but you are there and can judge whether the advantages are such as to justify me in sacrificing \$500.00 (for my board at H. will be less than \$200.00) which, of course would bring me much comfort. I wish the money difference were less,— then I should be at my ease. As it is, you will not wonder that I am troubled, particularly as a yearly difference of \$500.00 will soon make quite a difference, in my stock. — How is your sister succeeding in her plan? It does not seem to be the intention of any of my friends to send their daughters away for the coming year, but I should most certainly take pleasure in speaking of this opportunity on any

fitting occasion. -

duly appreciate your kind interest in my welfare and would be very glad to return it.

Much love to you and yours,

Sarah [...].

I should be very happy to receive a call from you, on your way to N. Y., but I suppose likely you will take the return route.