

Vassar.
Sunday afternoon.
(Probably Nov. or Dec. 1871?)

My dear Helen:

As I have but one postage stamp left, and have no money to buy any more, I need not write but this one letter, although I have several to answer. I spent all of yesterday afternoon directing invitations for the Philalethean entertainment, which takes place on the 5th of Dec. If I don't get any money soon I cannot write any more letters, for this one takes my last stamp, but happily for me I expect to receive some of the necessary article very soon. I have sent in my request at least.

Thee will do me a great favor by going to the middle drawer of the side board in the square entry & finding there two compositions of mine, one entitled "Clouds" & the other "They Builded better than they Knew." I want them very much for some particular purpose & wish thee would send them to me. Please do not forget them. If they are not in that drawer please look in my drawer in Marcus' room. I hope thee can find them for I am anxious to have them before Christmas. I had a dreadful letter from Uncle George a few days since on my manner of letter writing. It has made me more particular in my letters to him. I have fallen into the habit of writing short letters dealing in generalities alone it not entering into particulars and he does not like that, so I immediately sat down & wrote him a long letter dealing in particulars as much as possible.

Does thee think [...] will stay at our house another year ? I hope so don't thee? It will seem so strange for me not to come back here next year. I am sure I shall feel very sorry not to be able to do so. It seems hardly possible that it is so near time to come home for the Christmas vacation, but I am glad I am coming home. I have had a sort of impression that uncle George was going to advise me to remain here till June, but he seems in favor of my coming home.

Has thee come to any further decision about thy art studies ? Has thee decided to stay with Prof. F. J.W. ? Uncle George was perfectly when I asked him if I could get the class ring. He told me to let him know when I wanted the money & he would send it, but I do not want to ask for any more for a while. I had some questions to ask thee about my dresses but I believe I cannot think of them now. Has thee heard anything further in regard to the sewing machine ? I presume not. I have two dresses now that are too short in the skirt, but I am going to leave them unaltered till I come home. Has thee had any new dresses lately? I presume that question is a perfect mockery, but still there is nothing like asking to find out. Tell Marcus that I would like to hear from him oftener even if I do not answer his letters always- Do write soon It tell me all the news-

With love to all I remain thy loving
Sister Ida-

Ida (Corson) DeCaindry, '72