

Strong Hall  
Dinner Table  
June 6, 1895.

Our dear Alice,—

We are waiting for strawberries to be served so concluded we would better write you a steamer letter to help us control our impatience. We all shouted when Annie announced the fact in answer to our inquiries. We wonder Miss Cornwall did not ring the bell on us. The girls say you'll think it a fairy tale, but it is all true. The girls around us are eagerly devouring them. "G." has taken your place at my left and is now serving the berries so that I can write this to you. And we are to have genuine cream and fancy cakes, don't you wish you were here? We certainly do. They are such elegant berries, they fairly make my mouth water.

The girls are making suggestions as to the contents of this letter so you will please consider it as from the table, though I am writing it. I must stop now to eat some of these delicious berries.

Central Falls, June 15. You wonder perhaps that this is so long in reaching you, but I never could remember to take paper and pen to the table so that we could finish it, so I concluded I should have to complete it when I reached home, which I did Thursday evening. I have done nothing but eat and sleep since for I have not slept well for some time. I am sorry you missed this week at College, for it has been an Ideal one. The Baccalaureate service was very solemn and the girls had all they could do to control themselves. The organ recital by Professor Bowman was fine, tho' I had such a headache I couldn't enjoy it. But the Class Day exercises were beautiful. They were held back of the north main corridor, where it was cool and shady. '95 sat on a large platform built for the purpose and over it was a huge '95 in daisies on the green vines. Anne Crawford's history was good, but not nearly as good as Leonora Howe's. The prophecy was not very good. The burial service at the tree was sad and solemn, In the evening all the walks in front of the Main were lighted by Japanese lanterns which looked very pretty. On the plat of grass at the left of the entrance a platform was placed on which the Glee Club gathered and gave a concert. Then later was Mrs. Taylor's reception to which I went long enough to get some ice-cream. I did not attend the Commencement exercises as I was busy packing. I had been unable to pack any Tuesday for I helped decorate the tables for the Alumnae luncheon all the morning besides attending the afternoon and evening festivities. Alice Wilcox came up Tuesday morning for the luncheon and remained until Wednesday afternoon. She had engaged a room at the "Windsor," but as she forgot to engage a carriage to take her there Tuesday evening, she stayed in my room, while I went over to the Main. Several '94 girls came back. Among them. Thursday morning we all left for home. Blanche, Clara

West, Clara Barnes, and Jessie Pierson came to New York by boat. Miss Franklin took the 7.15 train as she wished to see Miss Smith while I came on the 8.51 with Miss King. Blanche, Clara West and Miss Franklin met me in the Grand Central and we took the one o'clock home. Just before one, whom should I see but my brother Arthur. He knew I was coming home then and planned to meet me. He was as attentive and generous as usual, and made the journey much pleasanter by supplying us with fans. Iced tea and Huyler's. He offered me his seat in the parlor-car but I preferred to go with Miss Franklin and the girls in the ordinary car. We were quite comfortable, tho' it was rather warm. Miss Franklin, was pretty tired I guess for she didn't sleep much the night before. It was so hot on the fourth. I slept in the Main where it was very cool.

I am very glad to be at home, tho' I hated to leave College, It is so beautiful there. I loafed from Friday to Monday morning when I began to tear up. Saturday afternoon I went with Miss Franklin and her friend Miss Lawton, whom I like very much, to Wappengi's Falls. I enjoyed it hugely.

I believe you to sail Tuesday and I hope this will reach you before you go. I ought to have written before but needless to say I have been very busy. I am so sleepy now I can scarcely hold my head up, so I think I shall have to let this go, uninteresting as it is, promising to try to do better next time.

I suppose you received all the "flunk" notes I mailed. They were so numerous I am afraid the mail-bag at Hope had to be enlarged. I have heard nothing from any of my exams except Biology so I conclude that I passed in all. Miss King had my paper and "G." Smith's but not yours. We both passed.

Arlie happened to see your letter from her brother in my hand and was strongly tempted to open it. Have you heard from her? I hope she got home safely and did not break down completely.

I suppose you have been very busy getting ready to go. I wish I could go with you. As I cannot think of anything interesting to write about I may as well close. Please give my love to your mother and remember me to your father. With love and best wishes for a safe and pleasant Journey,

I remain

Your friend,

Ruth M. Mann.

Ruth (Mann) Hollingworth, '96