

V.C. Dec. 6, 1868

My dear Brother,

I received a short letter from you the first of the week, and have been hoping, ever since, to hear from you again, especially in regard to my coming home. I am very anxious to do so, more to see you than for any other reason, and dear little George. If Carlos could be there too, at the same time, I should be glad. I am thinking some of going to Pittsburgh, if I do not come home: but shall not decide until I hear from you and Carlos.

You speak to me of Mary. Her load is heavy enough, and could I add to it by my blame for censure, I would not do it, or could I lessen it by worthy

any means I should not hesitate to do so. In the rise and growth of the trouble between you, I can not consider her wholly without some blame, although the great burden of it falls on you. It is a hard matter to judge of her final course, and as the Great Master has told us to "Judge not," it is unnecessary for me to do so. I believe her course costs her as much self-sacrifice as it does you and that she takes that course because she believes it to be right, and as much if not more for your sake than for her own. I am afraid I am not charitable enough to say the same honestly of Mrs. Bell, anyway and am wavering as to Mr. Bell. But let that pass.

I have had a glorious walk this morning. There was a heavy fall of snow yesterday and last night. This morning the sun came out bright, and the air was most delightful, and exhilarating. We have a most glorious

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picture-gallery spread out before our view of ever-new and ever-changing scenes. Our North windows give us a view of Po'keepsie and beyond the Catskills rising till they are lost in the clouds. On the West we see a rolling country until our eye is arrested by the Highlands just across the river. The shadows of the clouds on these hills are beautiful, and, oh, the sunsets. I never saw such glorious, wonderful sunsets as we have here.

It is only a little more than two weeks now before College closes, so I shall have to decide pretty soon where I will spend the time. The vacation is very short. Just two weeks I believe from the day College closes, it opens. I might, if it were really necessary, have my vacation prolonged a few days. I hope the weather will be good at that time. How is your cough now? You do not say any thing about your health. We are very busy preparing for a Society Entertainment which is to come off next Friday. We have a very pretty little drama written by our class poet, for the occasion. I shall be glad when the affair is over. Last Friday evening I spent a very pleasant evening at one of the Professor's house. Six of us were invited to tea, and enjoyed ourselves very much in the change. Tomorrow evening we are (when I say we, I mean the Seniors) are invited to the President's, to hear him read "Macbeth". He is a fine reader, and I am looking forward to a treat.

I hope my little details of my life do not annoy you. I want to write to you, and as I am limited in my movements am necessarily limited in my

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subjects of intelligence. I hope to hear from you soon, my brother.

Accept my best love and prayers. May God guard and preserve you.

Your sister,

Annie*

,Annie (Glidden) Houts, <69,