

V.C. Feb. 7, 1869.

My dear Brother John*

I have not heard from you for some time, and so have no letter to answer; but I must write you, to-day, for I shall be very busy next week, and, probably will not have time to write during the week. Next Wednesday the new term begins and our examinations for this term will be over. I shall keep on with German and take up Calculus and Logic, instead of the Mental Philosophy and Chemistry of this term. Our lectures in Chemistry are to be continued, weekly, of which I am very glad, for I never enjoyed a study more than I have Chemistry. Our manner of studying it has been so interesting* We have a new Elocution teacher, and shall meet her three times a week, probably for exercise in that too often neglected branch. I am very glad of an opportunity of instruction in that respect. To be a good reader is certainly a most desirable ambition, and one that is now so seldom attained that it is quite an accomplishment. I really am quite delighted with my prospects for this last half of my last year. The studies I know I shall like. I have always wanted to study Calculus and Logic; and German has delighted me from the first day I began it. This is a perfect day, clear and cold, and the atmosphere is so pure. I had a very pleasant walk to church this morning. We have had, so far, a most delightful winter, such clear weather, beautiful moon-light nights. A crust has frozen on the snow so as to make excellent coasting. Three of us girls went out coasting with Prof, and Mrs. Backus, and enjoyed our selves, greatly, careering over Feb. 7, 1869 - 2

the icy snow. Two weeks ago I went to hear George William Curtiss lecture on "Political Morality", and was so much pleased with the lecture and it

the lecturer. I wish you could have heard. I know you would have liked it so much; for it revealed not only a great deal of thought and graceful diction, but a real manly depth of strong, earnest, true principle. It is a lecture that must do good, wherever it is heard, and I wish it might be delivered before every political body in the country. Two of my class-mates gave me a very pleasant and complete surprise the other day, in the shape of two very pretty little pictures with fancy frames, made by themselves. They are quite an addition to our walls.

We had a very good sermon this afternoon, on the character of Peter.

Last Sunday, one of the Professors preached a sermon on that subject, extolling him as a strong, impulsive man, doing great deeds, both bad and good, and rather excusing his sins, because of his impulsiveness, and attributing all his good deeds to that attribute of his character. Today, the President took up the subject in order to show, that while Peter's strong, impulsive nature was to be admired, yet it was not from this that his greatness came, but from his principle. It was his principle, his faith that enabled him to follow the bent of his good impulses, and kept him from fulfilling his bad ones. Impulse must be founded on principle, or its possessor will be a changeable, fickle creature, tossed by every wind in the direction in which it blows. A man of principle without impulse is a sailing-vessel, constructed

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perfectly* otherwise, but without sails, a steamer with no fire in her engine} a man of impulse without principle is that same vessel, fully

equipped with sails, or with the fire, yet rudderless, for hence, at the mercy of every wind and wave.

Well my dear brother, it is almost bed-time, and I must say good-night* I trust this will find you well and prospering. Write to me as soon as you can. May God guard and keep you is -the fervent prayer of your loving sister,

Annie.

(Annie (Glidden) Houts, 1869,