

Vassar College, May ,1869? ,

Dear John,

This morning we had such an interesting Bible lesson, I must tell you about it. We have been studying about Luther and the Reformation, all winter, and are now trying to get at the practical lessons. I was particularly interested this morning because Prof. Farrer spoke somewhat of Independence and as I had thought of that as a subject for my essay I was on the alert to hear what he would have to say about it. He said he would give the distinction between Independence, Obedience, Liberty. Where Obedience becomes unnecessary, because our will is with the will of God, there Liberty begins. Liberty grows on the tree Love, Love on the tree Obedience, Obedience on the Tree Fear whose root is a law in the heart of the father. Independence is Satan's, is low; the beasts of the field are independents man must depend, lean, on a Higher One. It may not have been meant so, but we can certainly draw a good figure from the fact that bread, one of the main articles of man's food grows on slender grasses, of which there must be many, together, in order to stand firm and wine, another article of diet on a vine which must have a support. A man without faith is a vine on the ground. Independence is the essential sin Liberty, the highest virtue, what Paul calls the "perfect law of liberty."

The text of all this or rather the point of departure was the fourteenth chapter of Romans. I wish you could hear Prof. Farrer talk; he is the most inspiring man I know of. I want you to meet him when you come on. I studied May |1869? , - 2

Chemistry under Prof. the first half of the year, and he is now giving us a course of lectures, one a week, on the History of Chemistry. They are exceedingly interesting. He seems to enter so into the spirit of every period about which he studies, and to live as the intimate friend of every historical character in which he becomes interested. But you must be tired of this. In two weeks our vacation begins. I shall have two studies that will continue the remainder of the year; I suppose it will be optional whether I remain in them or not. I have completed my essay and handed it in, but have heard nothing from Prof. Backus about it yet. I have not yet written the Valedictory Address, but mean to be about it, soon.

I trust you are well and prospering, my brother. I think of you much and often, and pray the Father to give you joy and peace in His Love. I grow impatient as the time draws near when I am to see you. I shall be very, very much disappointed if you can not come. But I shall not think of that, but believe you will come, until I hear otherwise. Write to me soon, and believe me,

Your loving

Sister.

(Annie (Glidden) Houts, '69,

p.S. Are you a Free Trader? I am and have been much interested in the Free Trade League Meetings, in N.Y. You know I am studying Political Economy now. Free Trade, or at least a very low tariff on few articles.