

Vassar College.  
Jan. 21, 1894.

My dear Mamma, -

Several unusual and pleasant things have happened this week. First of all, as we were at dinner Friday night a card was brought in to Ray and she jumped up and rushed from the room like a streak of lightning. We found that her father had come. I let her talk with him while we finished dinner then I went and found them in the little reception room. I was so glad to see him. It was almost like seeing one of my own family. We talked together until Chapel, then went over to chapel and sat in the gallery. We had to come out before it was over so that Dr. Schauffler could catch the car for his train. So you see he was here a half an hour only. That was very little, but it was a great deal better than nothing. He was on an eastern trip and stopped unexpectedly.

There was a fine concert here Friday night, a piano recital by Josef Slivinski, a Pole. Some people think he plays almost as well as Padarewski. It was a fine classical programme, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt etc. and they say it was the finest concert that they have had here for years. I took Miss Macurdy, our Greek teacher. You see, there being no gentlemen here, the girls have to act in that capacity, both with other girls and with teachers. This concert was the "swellest" public entertainment they have had this year, so the girls were more dressed up than usual, and Ray is afraid that her father will have rather a strange idea of how the girls dress here, for he would not realise that they dress very plainly all the rest of the week except Friday night, and that they were more dressed on that night than usual for Friday night even.

Monday afternoon.

I left this letter to go and read to Maud Warner who has been sick for a week. She was so nice to us when we first came and took such good care of Ray when she had the poison ivy, that we have been glad to do all we could for her, although that was not much beside attending to her meals and reading to her.

There has been very good skating for the last week. I went out Thursday, for the first time this winter, because before that I never had time when it was good, or else it was never good when I had time. I went out again Saturday afternoon, and learned a little more, and now I intend to go whenever there is a chance, so that I can learn to do it well. Blanche Campbell went with me Saturday. She has just begun to learn, too, so we each took a long piece of lath and went out on the pond, because the rink was being flooded. Holding the ^lath [crossed out: rink] horizontally in our hands helps to steady us. While we were going around that way President Taylor came skating along and asked me what I was doing. "Oh, I said, "I was just learning how." ^ (which was extremely evident) "Learning how to do what?" he said. And I said "Learning how to hold a stick straight." Then he stood and watched me sit down suddenly. He skates a great deal, and Mrs. Taylor is out quite often too. Several members of the Faculty skate, and Miss Richardson, our Mathematics teacher, is the best and most graceful skater here. Miss Richardson has been so nice since Christmas vacation that it repents me of what I said about her before that. I guess she needed the rest.

We have examinations every day next week in the morning- They are only two hours long-

Thursday evening was the time for the monthly missionary meeting, and they had for the

subject "The Life of Dr. Schauffler - Ray's grandfather. It was very interesting- and was told by some Seniors- Yesterday afternoon Ray talked at the meeting of the Volunteer Band. The appointed leader was sick, so they asked Ray to read some of her sister's letters- from Persia- I had told them before that she would some time. So she read three or four that she happened to have (for she sends most of them on to relatives) and told what was in the rest. I think the girls were very much interested. There were fewer girls there than usual - only about twenty.

We were told in English Friday to analyze yesterday's sermon for tomorrow's lesson. That is to go to church Sunday and listen carefully to the sermon and think of its analysis, and then write it out today. They have done that here for several years but it struck us as a rather questionable proceeding, something like studying on Sunday. What do you think of it? We are going to ask Miss Nettleton about it tonight.

I just found out yesterday from a sophomore that we have to have a book of logarithms for algebra next semester. I know we have one at home that I believe no one is using, so that I wish you would send it some time when It is convenient - we have not yet been told to get it.

Papa's letter containing some money came this morning, and please tell him I am very much obliged.

I am going to enclose a profile which one of the girls cut out while she sat and looked at me. See if you can recognize it.

I have not gotten many letters since Christmas. I owe nearly everybody one.

Ray heard last week that her brother Will in Syria is engaged to be married to a young lady who has been living there - an American. You know his wife died two years ago, when he had been married only a year, leaving a little boy- Ray's sister saw a good deal of the young lady when she was in Syria and thought her very lovely- Give my love to the neighbors and friends, and keep lots for yourself, mother dear-

Your loving daughter

Adelaide. [Claflin]