

Vassar College,
Feb. 16, 1894.

My dear mamma, -

I have just waked from a long nap, into which I fell unintentionally. It was rather hot in our room and so it was easy to fall asleep. Our room is pretty well heated - the rooms on the west side of the house have a good deal of trouble to keep warm, sometimes, and the rooms on the corners are worst of all- Our room is just in the middle of the building. The weather has been colder for the past week or two, it has snowed very often, and is snowing now, though not hard. Friday night Ray and I were invited to go on a sleighing party, and we went, the first time, I think, that I ever went. There were about twenty girls, with Fraulein Neef as a chaperone. We started a little while after chapel, and, like good children, came home early, at quarter past nine. It was not very cold, so that we had not much trouble in keeping warm. We drove through Poughkeepsie, and we certainly needed a chaperone then, for several crowds of boys snowballed us, and some of them caught on sleigh- which had two long rows of seats facing each other, as in a streetcar, and a step at the rear. Along the country roads we sang college songs.

A number of girls went home yesterday noon to stay during the time between semesters. The girls who live near can get home pretty often. A good many of the Faculty went down to New York yesterday, too. Our examination in English Thursday was rather easy - we just had to criticise four pages of an essay, ^on Carlyle and then analyze the whole essay. Our exam, in Hygiene was not very hard either, and it was short so that we got through long before the two hours were up. The "flunk-notes" are all sent out, except for Hygiene, and Ray and I have not yet received any. There were four other girls in our room yesterday when the noon mail came, and when they found that no flunk-notes came in it for us, they had a sort of a wild Indian war dance. Our classes are arranged all over again. They change them around so that different girls will get acquainted. Ray and I are now in all the same classes except Latin. ^ It is rather unusual to have so many classes together. Even our gymnasium hours are the same.

I like the arrangement of my hours better than those I had last semester, except that I have four recitations on Thursday and two on Friday, instead of three every day. Miss McCaleb does all the arranging into classes.

I am making a little progress in skating. I went to the rink to try it, Friday and Saturday. It is very convenient to have some of your friends learning at the same time. I learn the slowest of any one I have seen yet. A. girl who went with me the other day was trying it for the first time in her life, and she could do it better that time than I could, though I had been a half a dozen times or more in my life. But I will learn yet.

There was no church in the chapel today, it being the first Sunday in the month. So we went to town, to the first Dutch Reformed church, whose minister is considered to be the best in town. We think he is the best one we have heard in town, so that I think we shall go there regularly after this. The pastor is Dr. Van Guysen, a rather old man. On account of the snow we rode in the horse car between town and Arlington, and walked between Arlington and the college. Between the first two points the fare is five cents, but if you ride all the way to the college, the fare is ten cents.

Saturday night we had some more fun, over in Arlie Raymond's room. Hope and Maidee Traver and one or two other girls were there too, and we played games and told each others' fortunes. One game that we played is lots of fun; it is called "It." It is played much like "twenty questions," only the second or third time that somebody has to go out of the room, they send some one who does not know how to play "It," and the object that they decide on is each person's left-hand neighbor; and, of course, as this is different every time the answers are very contradictory, and the one trying to guess it gets discouraged.

Several of the girls here are having their sisters visit them, between semesters. They have to sleep at the cottages near by, but they can come to their meals here if they pay 50 cents apiece for their breakfast and lunch, and 75 cents for dinner.

Well, tomorrow I shall have to begin to "grind". On account of the Algebra, I shall have to work harder than I did last year. The Sophomores tell us awful stories of it. They say that while you have Higher Algebra, you don't count your cuts.

Don't be afraid that I shall injure my health, I never was better in my life, and I take in some fun and laziness too, for all that I have to study harder and more steadily than I did last year.

Your loving daughter
Adelaide Claflin.