

Vassar College,

Jan. 25. 1871.

Dear Carrie,

Every time I think of you (and that is nearly all the time) I think what a little angel you are, and how cross and bad I used to be sometimes to you. Why are you so good and smart? How do you manage to be so? I never realised before I came here how very selfish I was. I suppose because you were all so kind and good to me at home that you excused everything from me, but now it seems as though there was nothing at all to me but selfishness and conceit. When I go home I shall try very hard and not let my wicked temper get the better of me. Here there is no cause for getting angry because I am not intimate enough with any person and so the selfishness shows out plainer than it ever did before. But don't say a word against this in your letters, for it is a good thing for me occasionally to see my badness.

I have received several Austin papers, but from whom I do not know. The handwriting is certainly none of our family's and it is not C.C.A., and I cannot imagine who they are from; but do not care, so that I receive them. Susie Towns end wrote me that she had seen in an Austin paper that Mr. Swancoat is, was building, or was going to, a house to be called the "Austin Atheneum," on the plan of city houses, with gas, hot and cold water and heated by steam. And that this was to be built on

College Hill. What do you know of it? and what is it intended for. I don't know the meaning of the word "Atheneum" but suppose it to be a place like the Hartford one and I can't see that they need hot and cold water, and where is the gas to come from? Austin must have become very much more of a city than it was when I left it, to have arrived at the dignity of gas, or perhaps one of those gas wells has been discovered? The Republican said that within the last twelve months, one thousand buildings had been put up in Austin; I wonder if they counted all the little negro huts in to make the number and some chicken houses too I expect.

The Binghamton girls and myself have had a pleasure which not very many here have had; and that pleasure was the being present during Faculty meeting. Every Monday afternoon the faculty meet together, and at the last one the three young ladies and myself were called down; it was our being called for about the same affair, our going away for the holidays, and it was a great surprise, for the Pres. had said before that he would not mention the subject again. It was all Miss J. Lyman doing I am sure, for she is the most stern woman I think I ever saw. When we have all been told to be very quiet and not talk at all when we pass her door for she was very sick and could not bear any noise, it was a surprise to find her in faculty meetings but as some girl said, if she knew she were going to die within an hour, she would still go to faculty meeting. But she is really very near the grave and we ought not to make the going down to it any harder for her. Perhaps you have seen in a New York paper the notice of a lecture by one of the Vassar teachers. Miss Swasey went down to N.Y. and delivered a lecture. I don't remember the name of it

given to but it was about women; what they had done from the earliest ages, and how sometimes they have been superior to men in resolution and courage. We all thought that it would be very good, but Miss Beach said that her father attended, and he wrote her that the hall where Miss Swusey lectured was no larger than ours at the Colie^, that there

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were only sixty persons in attendance and^those many looked as though they could not afford to pay the price of admittance, one dollar, and so were probably there by invitation. It is too bad that she did not succeed lor she was intending to make lecturing her business.

I please look among my papers in my bureau drawer and if you can find it send the pattern of a transparency to hang in the window. I have at home a very pretty pattern of a cross with leaves and flowers about it, and want it now to make one for my window. I am almost sure that the pattern is with my iraps in one of the drawers of my "yellow bureau."

There is splendid sleighing now and tonight the freshman class have a sleighride; they expect to have a grand time, but I do not envy them at all because the night is bitter cold.

It seems sometimes as though our time was entirely wasted in trying to learn Latin. Today we learned one little iact, which was, the exact meaning ol the word "veto." When the Pres. writes "veto" on a bill it is the same as saying "I forbid," lor it is the Latin word meaning that. I presume you knew all about it belore, but I did not. All the good though that Latin is expected to do us is to discipline the mind, but mine can never be disciplined* As Miss Lord* our Latin teacher said, the other day, here

they intendAto make us think, lor nothing is excused which results from thoughtlessness or forgetfulness. X shall write to Fapa and will now close. This letter has been in my desk for several days, and today have received letters from home and find answers to some of my questions, but I cannot afford to write my letter over.

With much love Julie
(Julia M. Fease, '75)