

Vassar College.

April 8, 1871.

Dear People,

I am only going to write one letter this week and it will be to you all* It will be a long one I think unless I am very tired of writing before it is finished, I received a letter from Aunt Juliet a few days ago. She wrote me that Dr. Thermaa was dead. Isn't it sad for Kitty? Last Saturday I went into Poughkeepsie and stayed nearly all day. We expected to ride in* but only one carriage came out in the morning, and so rather than fail to go after we were all ready, we walked. The day was very pleasant, but the roads were very muddy. Carrie, who thinks that Vassar girls are rather different from others, would have been amazed to see us

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walking on the rock wall and climbing fences to avoid mud. We stopped a few minutes at a conservatory and I bought a pretty ivy, price 15 cts. We thought it very reasonable. I feel guilty and want to confess. I feel that I have spent too much for my dress and hat. My dress is lovely, and I will put in a little scrap so that you may see it. The stuff cost \$ 14.40 and the making and trimming \$8.50. It is made very prettily with a basque waist and only one skirt trimmed with a flounce and two folds. The hat was seven dollars, a most enormous sum. I never had a hat cost so much. I used the ribbon and lace of last summer's one but had to get a new flower and more ribbon. The hat is white straw, which will be worn more this year than any other style. I really think I had better not come back another year. I cannot help spending money, when I have any it slips through

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my fingers as if it were so much water, for Papa's letter telling me to be economical had only come sooner, I would have tried to get along without a new dress this spring and I suppose I might have done so, but when one sees others dressing well, it is very hard not to try to do the same. Now I plead guilty and await the decision of the court.

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One question would like to have settled, I will now introduce for discussion. Julia Moon has written several times wishing me to come on to Maine as soon as school closes, and remain with them until they come to Poquonock and accompany them there. Will you hold a council upon this, and send the results? I do not intend to go to Binghamton this summer, nor to New York or Brooklyn- At the time I could visit there Mr. Levenson's family and my friend Miss Connie Smith would be out of town. Besides the summer is a miserable time to go to New York. But I should receive another invitation from Florence Smith to visit her in Newport, I would like to accept it, and if you think it well for me to go to Maine I will gladly do so, otherwise I shall be in Poquonock all summer. I shall have to study some during the summer to make up Algebra and enter Freshman another year, if I come back. I ought to have studied it here the first semester but the President thought that I had enough to do, making up History, and would not let me take it.

When I was in Poughkeepsie I had a photograph taken with the four others who went with me. Only two, Sarah and Bessie Hogg,

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are particular friends of mine but I like the others very well. Miss Randall is on the right and is a Sophomore, the one seated on a stool is Miss Sharp a special and a great friend of the elder Hogg. X send the picture to you, thinking perhaps you will be Interested in it. You can see how very fat X have grown, my eyes are almost hidden by my cheeks. The last time I was weighed X could not make the scales say any less than one hundred and twenty four pounds. Please send the picture back again. A photographer comes to College every year and takes the pictures of all who are anxious to waste their money. Last year he charged four dollars a dozen and the Faculty not being content with that, are trying this year to get one that asks less. Do you think it worthwhile to pay fifty cents for each picture of your promising daughter and sister? One day this week three or four of us went over the Stewards Department. Everything is kept in such order as would please Mamma. The cooking and washing is all done by steam. It seems strange that icecream can be made by steam but so it is. We were told that two or three barrels of flour & two or three hundred quarts of milk are used daily. Two or three hundred quarts of icecream are used at one meal. The pot for boiling soup holds just one barrel full. When we have warm rolls for breakfast those who mould them must rise and commence operations at 2 A.M. Two persons are occupied all day, with the exception of two hours, cutting bread for us to eat. You will perceive that we have very

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good appetites. These few items will give you an idea of the grandeur with which things are carried on here.—Today we went to Cedar Ridge. It is a very pretty place, about a mile away. We found a great many hepaticas, but it is too early for many varieties. The walk back to the College, at half past eleven, was one of the warmest X ever took. This day has been the wonder of the season. The thermometer here in the shade stood at 80° and is said to have been 90° in town. As it is almost the first really warm day there has been, we feel it very much. Mamma wishes to know if I find time to practise any. My answer is no. I hoped to take a practise period daily this semester, but find all my time occupied. I am very sorry as I am forgetting all I know, which never was much. This afternoon I tried to play a little but soon grew discouraged. I had to pick the music out almost as if I had never before seen it. Carrie, it is too bad that X have some of your pieces of music with me. They are those that you used to play most. I wish I might send them to you* Do you think X could? I would like the undergarments of which you wrote, Mamma, open at the side. So, papa has the stump mania? Can you not ornament them in some manner? there are some very pretty ones here several feet from the ground*

Miss Garfield, for President of the Freshman class, received a telegram a few days ago saying her mother was dead. She is now an orphan.

of flowers
made in this style

. The stump pointed and set on a stick

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It is a fearful thing when one is away from home to hear of the illness of any of the family, but a death—I cannot bear to think of it. This is the

second girl this year who has been called home after her mothers death. Auntie wished me to writs and ask you all to come on this summer. I want you to so much but cannot ask you to take the long Journey so soon again. I am very much disappointed that Papa Is not eomlng. The time goes very swiftly and I hope it will not seem very long before we see each other again, and then we will not be seperated any more. Tomorrow is Easter day. Will the children have their usual offer- ing then? I would like to be with you, going to St. David's but shall have to con'. :ni myself by going to Christ Church, I think it is, which we attend. We expect to walk in if it is as warm as today I do not know how we can do it. I am writing this after ten oclock. Miss Smily (Adelaide L. Smiley, to let me I eould sit up "but not very long, not over half an hour," she said. I have just heard a clock strike eleven and feeling slightly guilty will hasten to bed. Good night yourvery loving and very faulty Julie. (Julia M. Pease, '75)