

Vassar College,
May 2nd to 8th ,1871,
Mr, and Mrs. f. M. Pease;
My dearest Parents,

How do you like this form of address? One of the girls told me that she always commenced a letter home in this way, and I thought that I would try it. Dear papa, won't you come North this summer? I want to see you so much. If my wishes will influence you at all, you will certainly come. But there is more to be considered than my earnest wish to see and fondle you again. For the sake of us all you ought to come, that you may get well and strong, and be spared to us many more years. I am

do
sure you will! What we are so anxious to have you do, and it will be so much better to come North early in the summer. You speak of selling that piece of land which I have always called mine. I do not agree to it, unless it is

want to
absolutely necessary. What shall I do when rebuild my old maids cottage, if the land on which to build it is gone? It would be nice to have a fine park near home, but I think the land is much nicer as it is. I am as bad about having our land sold as those old ladies in Hartford, whom you used to tell of. Every little thing about home interests me. How many cats &c. you have. Even the death of a chicken. By the way, is the chicken cholera entirely over?

I think you mentioned in one of your letters that you had had that Madonna, which I drew, framed. It is pretty good for a crayon sketch but it ought never to have been framed. I hope when you know that I do not like
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it, you will take it out; anyway, do not have it hanging on the wall. I was amused at your thinking it looked like me. It brought to mind the french fable about the owl and its little ones. Love blinds your eyes to all my defects. It is very pleasant to have if so, but others cannot be deceived any more than the hunter could. He, being told by the owl not to kill her little ones which were the prettiest birdlings In the forest, went directly which

and killed them, for he thought them the ugliest he found.

Papa did you ever know a Dr. Kapp of New Brannfeld? He is a German and brother of our German teacher. He is not now in Texas, but has sons living there.

I often wish I were with you at your Saturday evening game of whist. We played several times during vacation, but of course do not play now. I believe it is against the rules although we have never been told not to play* I can imagine you. Mamma, wearing your old straw bonnet comfortably, You are a living example of one who does not think that 'dress makes the person,' and one who carries out her opinions, too. Really, though, you ought to have a new bonnet. I suppose this one has been with you so long that you have an affection for it, and cannot bear to put it aside. Please make my nightdresses quite long, and do not mark them. I want to get a stencil plate, and mark my things when they are finished.

I want to ask papa If he will tell me Just how much money he can let me spend a year. If he will decide upon a certain sum I will keep

within it, and feel more comfortable than at present. I wish you would think of it, and when you have decided how much X ought to have give Mr, Levenson authority to pay it to me three or four times during the year. I shall have to send to him for more money before I leave College. I shall try and not need any until I hear from you. Then X hope to know how much I shall have this summer, and can make my plans accordingly. Please do not give me more than you easily can.

There has been quite an excitement lately about smoking, drinking and cardplaying. X presume you have heard of it, because the papers gladly find all they can to say against Vassar College. I will tell you about it so that you may not believe the reports which you hear. There has been smoking and cardplaying here and X have known of it myself, but it has not been to any extent. X think there has never been any drinking. The report says that young ladies of Vassar commonly smoke and drink and that is not so. Three young ladies have been discovered flirting: r:i&Q have written and received letters from gentlemen in Po'keepsie, and the letters have been carried to and fro by a boy, son of one of our Professors. The other one took a gentleman who called upon her into the Art Gallery and there met some young ladies. Although these things were not so very bad, yet, as the Pres. had said that flirting would not be allowed, these young ladies have been put under watch. They can walk only a short distance in front and back of the college, and can receive no more calls from gentlemen. This letter has been lying in my desk some days, and this evening I

• will finish it. Your letters came today and made me very glad. You do not say whether I shall have my photographs taken. I wish you had done so. For my own part X would not pay 5 dollars a dozen for them, but if you wish me to, I will. They will be taken very finely. The photographer is Kurtz of New York and he is here now. You are much mistaken. Mamma, if you think that overskirts are not now worn. They are longer and larger than ever before, and more generally worn. X fancy that they make me look dumpy, and as the material of my dress is stiff, X had it made without one. Sleeves are made either with a deep cuff or flowing at the wrist. Hats are worn farther back on the head. This will suit you I think. The hair is worn pompadour, which is the reason for putting the hats so far back. Almost all styles of hat are bent down at the sides, slightly. The first eight of my sea side would amuse you. The crown is rather high and for me

the sides are bent down quite low. If you think it best to go to Poquonock, before going to MSine, X will do so, but it seems to me an unnecessary waste of time and money. X could have my large trunk expressed on to Windsor and my small one with me. X would be glad to have Auntie go on and will write to her about it. If she does not go X could have the company of so many girls from the College. Several here, live in Maine. This lengthy epistle is now drawn to a close, so now rejoice.

With much love and many kisses your loving daughter,
Julie

As I have my pictures taken I shall have to send for more money before this letter can be answered*

Julia M. Pease, *75,