

Vassar College.

May 23, 1871.

My dear Mamma,

The bundle of underclothing came this afternoon and now, after having tried on the garments, I sit down to write you of their safe arrival, and how they fit. They all fit very well and I am much pleased. If you make any more nightdresses please make them about an Inch narrower in front and a little less behind, this will make the neck, too, a little smaller; you know I like things short on the shoulder and this gown will be better a trifle shorter there. The sleeves of the chemises could be a little shorter and the sleeve bands smaller, and I like the pattern which I sent you of a round yoke, better than the square one. The skirt I think has no fault, only I would gather more another one made with the gathers all round the band. The clothes are made beautifully. Carrie entirely surpasses me in the management of the machine, and I shall have to take lessons of her in the art of machining when I go home. I know when you read what I have written about the underclothes you will say, "Julie is so particular) why need she speak of these little faults when the whole is so nice," but if these little things are changed the clothes will be perfect. You ask in one of your letters if we have a lady Principal. No, we have not, and have no idea who will be. One will be appointed for next but until then Miss Morse does the duties of one. Our matron, who was a very poor one* has left College and has been married. A new one, Mrs. Humphreys has come in her place. There is an air of refinement and mystery about her,

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and many are the stories reported of the wealth which she has possessed and her sorrows which have turned her hair grey. She looks about thirty, but has very grey hair and this gives rather a mysterious charm to her face. No doubt she has been well off for she appears to have lived in a very good society. I think she will do a great deal to improve her department of the College. I believe I have never told you of the lecture by Mrs. Henry Field of New York. Her subject was to have been "French Literature, but the Pres. asked her to change it to "What France will do for us," and she did so. She told us of the writings of Mile Stvign* and of Madame de Staël and advised us to read them and in France. "in the first place," she and we need to learn

said, "they would teach us how to write letters because no American lady knows how to write a letter which will not be stiff. Then they would teach us to appear better in society, and to carry on general conversation instead of two persons getting in a corner and talking by themselves as is so common with Americans." But France avails Mrs. Field would not have us touch. Mrs. Field talked to us a short time in the day about the way to learn French and talked in French. She is a native of France and does not speak English very plainly. Her talk in French was not, of course, very intelligible to me. I could occasionally understand a sentence, but I did not get a very connected idea of the whole.

Now I must close with much love to all your loving daughter Julie.

Julia M. Pease, 75,