

Vassar College

May 5. 1872.

My dear Mamma,

I find my supply of writing paper has become reduced to a few sheets of Composition paper, and as this is Sunday Eve I must have recourse to it. Yesterday at six o'clock a.m. nine of us had breakfast and then went down to the depot, from where we started for New York, at seven. Prof. Mitchell and some of her friends. Dr. Avery, Mr. Swan and Prof. Van Ingen went down with us. The three latter, with us students, went for the purpose, as I have before written you, of seeing the pictures now on exhibition in New York. Reaching the city at a little after nine o'clock, we went directly to the Academy of Design, where we remained looking at the pictures until dinner time. All the pictures there are original in design. There were six different rooms filled with paintings of every imaginable kind, but among them all the number of really good pictures was small. One of Prof. Van Ingen's paintings "The Mother and Child" was on exhibition. It is a very fine cow and calf, well painted and very natural, and yet not a picture I should desire to have unless possessing a regular Picture Gallery. Many of the paintings at the Academy, as well as elsewhere, were not better than some of the girls here make, but then, here they only copy. There was a lovely head of a young girl at the Academy, and another picture was very good, an evening home scene. A young girl is sitting by the table winding some worsted which her little brother holds in his hands, her father stands near her looking quite stern because a young man, whom he apparently does not like, is being ushered in. Just at this moment a knot is found in the yarn, and the girl gives it a twitch. All is so natural, and the light on the picture so fine. The gas by the table throws a reddish yellow light on the figures in the foreground, just as it really would. Among the statuary we saw a fine bust of Spring. After the Academy, our party proceeded to a Restaurant and were served with Dinner, an all important matter as we were not able to live entirely upon pictures, although some quite natural fruit was seen, and some fishes which looked as if they might be eaten. When our feast was ended we proceeded to the Aspinwall's Collection. It is in a private house on Fifth Av. and contains some very valuable paintings. But I might use up all my paper, which is intended for essays, in describing the pictures which we saw. Suffice it to say that we went to very many picture galleries and saw numberless paintings, but most of them were poor and were such that I would not have them for a gift. We reached the College at nine in the evening and found a nice hot supper prepared for us. After it we went joyfully to bed, being dreadfully tired.

I believe I have not written to you since Founders night, and so must tell you about it. Mr. Boardman from Philadelphia, gave the address, then there was music and singing, afterwards, the Collation and promenading. Dr. Avery had invited the Swans out and Captain and Mrs. Roberts. So that I enjoyed myself very much with them. As before. Captain Roberta and Nannie wished to be remembered to you all. Last Monday of course was a holiday and Tuesday was a half-holiday, so that we have lately had a good deal of rest from study. Wednesday afternoon Fannie Buffington and I walked into town and thereby missed hearing the colored Jubilee singers.

They came out to the College and sang some of their melodies very nicely, we were told. It seems there darkies belong to a College in Nashville, Tenn* and left there last October to give a series of Concerts for the benefit of their College. They have made twenty thousand dollars aad now will return home. I think of Fapa as now la Cincinnati. It is too bad that whea he is oaly two days ride from me he caanet come, but buslaess is a tyrant and must be attended to. I received a letter from Aunt Maria Robinson, last week. *he wished me to aak you to bring on the daguerro-type of Grandma Pease which we have at home. She deaires to have some photographs taken from it, same else as Grandpa's. Here endeth my paper and so must my letter. Please congratulate Martha for me and tell her I feel almost slighted because I have not received same wedding cake to dream over. With love to every body, I am, your loving and absent daughter Julie.

(Julia M. Pease, '75,