

Vassar –

Jan. 14 1872. (i.e. 1873)

Dearest Carrie,

I have been unusually blessed today by receiving several letters. Your home letters were heartily welcomed, and to show the joy they gave me I sit down immediately to answer yours. I only wish that you had sent, and not destroyed, that letter in which you told all the news of the week of gayety. Between you all, I have received but meagre accounts of your doings ; for each is afraid that possibly something may be repeated to me, as if I would not be glad to hear more than once what is going on in our "Mountain City."

Methinks Milton Swisher must have been crazy to get married a second time; and the girl too, to marry such a disgusting old man, as he has become. And what an amusing account of Mary Reids wedding. From that article one would suppose that she had been one of Austin's belles.

It seems that you aroused Susie Towns end to some purpose, for I received a nice long letter from her today. What a talent that family have for acquiring the town gossip, and one would scarcely expect it from them. She writes that it, is reported Miss Augusta Palm is to marry Mr. Blackburn. Do you think there is a particle of truth in the statement? Miss Augusta has been disposed of so many times by the "They say" family that I pay little attention now to such dispositions. Do the Townsend girls have any particular admirers? I would so like to find someone to tease Susie about, now that George Graham is out of the question.

Are you not down in the depths of despair about German declensions ? I supposed you would be, by this time. I expect to have a tug next semester, for Miss Kapp has no such word as "difficult" in her vocabulary.

To her every thing is easy, hence she thinks it is the same with us, sad piles on the lessons.

Aunt Maria has lately written me a nice letter, as usual. She says she has not heard a word from you since you reached Texas; neither has Aunt Carrie. The latter feels much hurt about it, as I should think she might. Custom, I supposed, demanded that the guest inform the former host of her safe arrival at home.

What a pleasant time you must have had on Papa's birthday! He, of course, was as unsuspecting as usual. Next summer we must give Mamma one. But how can we ever conceal the preparations from her watchful eyes.

I think perhaps our January thaw is beginning, for the day is very warm and the snow begins to melt. I hope there will not be a regular thaw, however, but that the snow will go away gradually. There is so much that the road will become almost impassable on account of the mud. Don't you find it too cold and windy to ride horseback much? I am sorry to confess it, but today I... (Letter is incomplete.)