

Vassar College,

Nov. 11, 1873.

My dear Mamma,

Today I have been finishing the "Newcomes" and become so much interested that I could scarcely stop for supper. In spite of your injunctions to read nothing that is not absolutely necessary, I read It; but then, that was absolutely necessary as you could not expect me to leave a novel unfinished. But do not be alarmed concerning my eyes; they are perfectly well, and as for reading, this one book is all that I have read since my return, and an occasional peep at the papers, which I fear keeps me about half posted in regard to the news of the day. Only through Prof. Backus did I learn of the conviction of Stokes, this was incidentally mentioned in Rhetoric class. For the last week I have been frantically pouring over the papers in order to find something about the present condition of affairs in France, as I have to write something about it for Chapter next Friday night. The result of my reading is to discover that the French know little enough of their own condition and prospects, and I still less. All is confusion there, and all is confusion in my poor pate. There seem to be numberless political parties with numberless leaders, but I cannot disentangle them in my mind.

I am very glad that Julia suits you all so well, and hope that she may continue to remain with you. You will not need then to procure your Chinaman, as you have often threatened to do.

Col. Higginson lectured here some nights since, his subject being "Literature in a Republic." We all enjoyed the lecture, more from the profuse sprinkling of anecdotes than from the amount of thought in it. A few ideas were brought forward and there plentifully illustrated. The next day he visited several classes, among others our Rhetoric class. He talked to us there a little and pleased us more than when lecturing. The Vassar Miscellanie's have come out and are pretty good. As soon as I have read mine I will send it to you. It is the only copy I have, or I would send it immediately.

I hope the diengue has been banished from Texas by the cold weather, though fear that nothing but lack of victims will put an end to it. Such seems to be the only thing which will stop the yellow fever. You have been very fortunate to escape so far. Papa will have more faith than ever in his quinine, and other precautions since it has saved you all from any attacks. Your letters are still nine or ten days coming, the envelopes looking quite old after so long a voyage.

With love and kind remembrances to all your off. daughter