

Vassar.

Jan. 25. 1874.

My dear Sister,

We seem to be a letter writing parlor this morning, for two of the girls are already writing and now I will begin, and make the third.

Wouldn't it be nice if this lovely bright morning I could be with you going to our own little church!

Last night Dr. Avery invited Pattie Thum, Miss Hamlin, Abbie F. Hamlin, a cousin of the Swans, Fannie Swan, and myself up to her room to meet Mr. and Mrs. Swan. Dr. ,Charles J., and Mrs. Hinkle ,Hinkel, and their daughter were also there, so we had a very pleasant evening. I wonder that Dr. Avery even pays me any attention for I go to see her very seldom, not because I do not like to, but because I am very sensitive about going where I am not wanted. We played cards. Dr. Hinkle, being my partner, and a most amusing one. Then we were served to oranges and cake, which we girls of course enjoyed. Dr. Avery's successor comes here the first of February, but Miss Avery will remain here until March! then she goes to her work out in Denver. You have no idea how much all the Swans think of Mamie Roberts. Fannie received a letter from Mamie not long ago, and in her delight came right down to show me the letter. Since then she has received another containing a picture of herself with the baby. Mamie looks forty years old in it, or as she says, "like the last of pear time" and the baby, too, is wretched. Dr. Avery, too, in very load of Mamie, and Mr. Bucher of Po'keepsie who met her, has taken quite a fancy to her. Mamie writes that they are coming East in the summer, and hope then to have their post changed to a pleasanter.

Mamma mentions in her letter that Mr. Blackbura is soon to be "joined to a I aim". I am half dying (rather stony expression, is it not?) to know to which one. I cannot reconcile myself to Miss Augusta marrying a man so much younger than herself, and yet she is the only one who is good enough for him. And then, from what Miss Augusta said last summer about marrying the man who had waited long and patiently, I supposed she was going to accept one of her lovers of longer standing. Do set my curiosity at rest, and not give such very vague hints another time.

Yesterday afternoon the Caecelia Society gave its first concert of the season, and gave it as a matintee, you see. Professor Bitter gave a short sketch of Robert Schumans life and compositions, and all the pieces played and sang were by that composer, the concert being dignified by the name of the "Schumaa Matinte". Your little "Lotus Flower" was sung very sweetly by Miss Jacobs, one of those sisters who know Papa's cousin, Mrs. Moody of Springfield. The little pin for my eyeglasses has beea received, for which I thank you very much. It is very pretty and just what has always beea needed for "dress-up" occasions. I have never seen them used here; the girls have a way of fastening their glasses to a chain and putting them behind the ear. This pin is a vast improvement, I think.

Haven't you begun taking singing lessons yet?

I am so sleepy and dull now, that I must stop writing and try and get wakened up by a short walk, I wish it were with you, but wishes are useless, for "if wishes were horses," etc. Give my love to Mrs. Hunt, and other friends who may inquire for me.

With love to Papa and Mamma and yourself.

Julie.