

Vassar College N.Y.

Dec. 24th/71.

Dear Allie,

You were real good to write me so soon. I was so glad to get your letter. First you ask me why am I here. Ans. Because I wish to have a quiet time to write my chapel essay, and I know I shall not have time at all, after vacation. Cornie Knowles and Mame Taylor both asked me to stay, but I thought I had better not.

How nicely you will be fixed up, after you get your satines and black silks made. Aunty said I might have one, but I don't think it is worth while as long as I am here. How lovely Ida Smith's dresses must have been, ashes of roses oh! that is my weakness you know. I think that Sallie Stoner ought to be settled, why don't Lee invite his friends any way, if it is only Sallie's whim. She might be married first, and then Lee have a respectable wedding. How do you like Ida as the time approaches. I think that Sallie's [idea] whim, as you call it, not to see Lee married is simply scandalous. Oh! about your "Illuminator", do you receive contributions outside your society? If so, I have something which, although not original, will be splendid for it. Write me if I shall send it. I should think your club would be splendid. How I should like to join. Is it a complimentary affair, or can any one join who expresses a desire to do so. We have not formed our Reading Club yet, indeed I am afraid it is going to fall through. Did I write you that I had been promoted to the dignity of Librarian? You don't

know how grand I feel
sitting behind my desk, and
doing what is to be done. I only
keep the Library open two hours
a day, but I can come in and
stay all day If I wish to. I
am writing here now because
it is so quiet.

Night before last, We seniors
made up a party to go to Pokeepsle
to hear Mr. James Parton lecture
upon "Who Are the Vulgar?"

Just before leaving we thought
perhaps it would be just as
well to inform the Lady Principal
that we were going, so Miss Rawson
went up and told her, saying
that she thought it would
be just as well to let her know
that we were going, "Yes, says
Mrs. Lord - I should think so.
Are you in the habit of going
into town without permission?

Oh yes says Miss R.

we never ask permission.

Oh! I think it is very nice to go in,
I hope you will have a pleasant
time; We did have a pleasant
time too. Mr. Parton gave us a
little fling, by repeating
something which was published
in a New York paper
sometime ago. It is something
like this: "The Vassar
young ladies have plenty
of silk dresses but no
warm flannels, plenty of satin
slippers, but no heavy shoes,
and more to the same effect.

When he heard that there were some
Vassar girls present, he said
he would like to see us. As we
were all provided with extra
shawls, clouds &c, we thought it
would be fine fun to go in and
show them to him, but we were
all in the sleighs, and so thought
It was hardly worth while to
get out. We enjoyed his lecture
exceedingly. Have you heard it,

or have you seen any notices of it?

His idea is I believe that no American is vulgar who takes an interest in public affairs. He thinks that a few millions does not keep one from being vulgar, when one (Tweed) can steal more millions in a few years than an honest man can make in a life time, nor does he think that riding in your Carriage and wearing diamonds keep you from being vulgar, when such men as Flske and Gould keep their carriages and are covered with Jewels, &c,&c,&c. Last night Dr. Raymond invited us into his parlour and read several of the Siglow papers to us, and also several scenes from Nicholas Nickleby.

I am going into town tomorrow to dine with the Thomas' I don't want to stay all night If I can help it, for Dr. Avery is going to give us a grand party tomorrow night. She has engaged a band from Pokeepsie. And rumor says that some gentlemen from the same city are to be invited. If it is true, I presume it is only the more harmless kind such as the trustees and their sons, perhaps a few small boys to see Nellie Raymond.

I am crazy to be present, for it is decidedly "the affair" of the season. It is called a hygiene ball, and is to be from six to nine (during which time Dr. Avery expects to dance with fifty young ladies.) after nine we return to the college, (the ball is

given in the gymnasium)
and have refreshments.
At ten o'clock everyone
is supposed to be gone.
Don't you think it will
be fun? I do. Now you write me
just as soon as you get this
telling me what you do on
Christmas, and I will give
you a description of our ball,
you must write soon though
or I shall forget it all.
Good-bye until after the ball,
Sallie.

Do you hear anything of the
small pox in Sandusky?
I am morally certain that
we will have to have it here,
and have to break up the college. The
girls think I am absurd, but
I do think it will be a miracle
if three hundred and fifty
girls go through New York,
Brooklyn and Philadelphia
without some of them getting
it and of course it is very
possible that they will
bring it back here. S.