

Vassar College

Oct 24th 1865

My dear father

I suppose you are very busy just now finishing up the house and preparing to commence at the furnace.

I do wish you would hurry off Henry to Norfolk. I am afraid he will not go till Christmas if you do not. It is just as pleasant as can be here except on Sundays when we have to stay at the college and listen to a Sermon from president Raymond. I do wish there could be some way provided for us to go to Poughkeepsie to Church, but we have to pay 40 cents if we go in the "bus" and cannot often get permission to go on any condition. Indeed it is very impossible to get permission. I have not been since I have been here. We have heard Mr Beecher (T.K.). My roommate Clare Spaulding is one of his congregation in Elmira and so went to take tea with him- He stayed at Prof Farrars, one of the professors. The salaries of the teachers &cd perhaps you would be interested in knowing I found them out by one of the professors.

President Raymond has six thousand dollars. Miss Lyman the lady principal has three thousand, each of the professors 2 thousand and the assistants \$450. It is the best place here to learn languages I ever was in. I am studying French German Geology and Zoology and Music. I wish I could just step in upon you and see the house and the gas.

It Is so nice here to have gas. We have it In our bedroom as well as in our sitting room. I am sure I do not know what we have to use Shakespeare and Milton for, but I suppose they will come in time into use. The examination was what I dreaded most and that I have passed through and fortunately do not have to take geography arithmetic Grammar Algebra or Rhetoric, which some do, rather to their disgust.

There are so many girls here it is a long time before we get acquainted with them. They are here from everywhere - almost. Some from Kansas and one from California - San Francisco. A good many come from New York and Brooklyn. Next room to us is Mary Cornell daughter of Ezra Cornell who is Union candidate for State Senator and who has given five hundred thousand dollars to build an agricultural College. Miss Robinson daughter of Prof Robinson the Mathematician is here, and there is a young widow here. She is only 22 though those are all the very distinguished characters here. Mr Vassar has three neices at school here. Two from Poughkeepsie one from Auburn. I am quite lost without my usual correspondents I hardly get a letter in two weeks now. I am so very busy I do not miss them as much as I did now. Two of my roommates have gone since I wrote the first part of my letter. Clara Spauldings father has been here to-day and she has gone with him to New York to see her sister who Is at school there. Libby Anderson has gone to Poughkeepsie to visit. This is the second time she has been. Mary Woodruff and Sarah Lawson are here though, but it made me feel very homesick to think I could not go too. I wish I could see you all. Tell me how you are getting along.

Your affectionate

daughter Helen.