

Vassar College

Jan 28th 1866-

My dear Mother

I have had so little time that I have not been able to write so often as I wished. It has been almost Impossible to write and so you must excuse my neglect if you can call it so on those grounds and not because I had no desire to write home. I have been almost homesick having my expectations disappointed every time I saw the mail come and no letter for me. I have had so much to do the time has passed very rapidly and it hardly seems as if I had been a month away from home. There has been a good deal of sleigh riding here for the past two days - I think from the number of loads that every girl in school must have taken a ride - I went with a party on Friday and we enjoyed it very much. There were about twenty of us and the day was very warm and pleasant- How are the darkies progressing. Do you find confinement in an upper room sufficient yet? How is James' cold. I shall be expecting a letter from him to-morrow because he ought to be so touched by the appeal I sent to him. Tell him to continue sending the Republic it seems quite natural to get it. Then you can fill your letters without being obliged to depend on the news to write about. Then tell Henry he owes me perfect quantities of letters and will have to write very long letters if he expects to attain to the honor of getting one in reply- I have not seen anything of my croquet box or of my hooped skirt covers- I am afraid if they are not got, they will forget all about them and you will not be able to get them.

I will send father the bill for my next term's tuition very soon the half year ends on Feb 1st.

I can hardly find anything to write there is so little that would interest you of what passes here and everything is just the same every day - We have lectures on Physiology once a week and are soon to have a concert of some of the music Scholars - I expect to perform. The weather has been very changeable here and very bad for taking cold but I have not been sick at all.

How is Mr Norton? Does he seem to be sinking or getting better?

I think Emma Wehner is a very pleasant girl and am getting much better acquainted with her. I think from what she says of her father he must be a very fine man.

Doctor Raymond does preach such long sermons, it tires me almost to death to sit through them. Today his sermon was an hour and a quarter long and never is less than an hour so we are in the chapel nearly two hours, and we get so sleepy- They have dismissed Madame Sparton one of the french teachers the most comical old thing you ever saw. She dresses equal to Mrs Fields only neater and has better things to wear but has just about as much taste. She wo'nt go however and says she shall stay till next Summer as they engaged her till that time- So they cannot get rid of her unless they should bring an officer of the law to eject her.

Do please write to me every week Mother. What is the use of having so much work? You cannot have very much now, besides you have two letters to answer now. My love to Father Henry and James-

Your affectionate

daughter Ella-