

Vassar College
March 20th 1866

My dear father

I wonder if it is any use to talk to Henry about his dreadful habits of unpunctuality. I feel the evil consequences of it more here than I ever did at home. I am almost afraid to say anything for fear he will not come for fear of the dreadful lecture he will get when he does come if he ever does-

Sunday I went to Poughkeepsie to Church. There were no omnibuses engaged to come, and we walked both down and back. I was very tired after it though and spent most of the rest of the day in sleeping. The girls have begun to play croquet and my set would be very acceptable. Why dont you send it? There has been a silence of nearly a week since the announcement that Henry was coming and I have been in suspense ever since. How does James do in the Office? Do things go on as usual at home in the garden? How many crops of tomatoes have you lost already? and how is your bump? You see I have given you a good foundation for a letter in answering the many questions I have asked you, and you must answer right away. It is not so much what I hear in the letter as Just the letter itself and the knowledge that it comes from home. If there is no news there is some consolation in knowing that. It does not grow warm very fast here but remains just about the same. It is nearly 10 o'clock and if my letter is suddenly cut short you will know the reason. I shall be so glad when summer comes and I can go home. I am getting quite anxious to go for I have been away so long. Are you going to put in new bannisters to the stairs this spring ? You must get all the improvements made before I come home so as to surprise me for it would indeed if you should. I must close this letter now and considering that you have had two letters in answer to yours I think you ought to answer soon.
Your affectionate
daughter Helen.