

Vassar, April 20, 1874

Dear Mother,

Yours came this morn. The books came last Friday. What does it mean? Grandmother Bolton's money would not have bought more than one volume. How much were they? Did you get them? They were lovely, but they must have cost ever so much. Mr. [S ] sent a postal Thursday saying that he had forwarded 8 vol. Hawthorne's works by express. I could not imagine what he meant.

Yesterday was such a lovely day. Some of us went to Cedar Ridge again for a walk. It is a lovely place for Sunday afternoons, only rather too far. Some of the teachers were there too. We found quantities of hepaticas right along by the road without any climbing at all.

Lou wants me to visit her next summer. It begins to be very pleasant here. The grass is growing green. I had a little stye in my eye Saturday, and I did not want to read any.

Kate Maltby read my Logic lessons over to me, and another girl insisted upon reading Geology, although she does not have it herself. Wasn't it lovely of them? It is almost worth while to be a little sick here to see how very nice the girls are. I found a rock of fossils the other day, rather a rare thing here.

We have, that is Kate and

I, been in the cabinets  
looking up fossils. There  
is the fossil jaw of an  
ancient frog two feet or  
more each way. It is  
triangular In form.  
What an immense  
amount of workthat frog must have  
had. Rumor says that  
the riding school is to  
be made over and  
either the cabinets or the  
art gallery will be moved  
there next year to give  
more room in the  
main building. They  
will build houses for  
the profs, sometime. I only  
wish they would do it, so  
we could all have single  
rooms next year. Last  
year all the girls who drew  
single rooms gave them  
up if they felt wall enough  
to have a double, so I  
presume I may possibly  
get one that way, but  
it would be horrid to  
take a single room  
from any girl although  
you know she did not care  
nearly so much about it  
as you did. \$5. came in  
your last. The needlebook  
and lace came all right. I  
forgot to say anything  
about them. Hope Anna's  
baby will have eyes like Mr.  
Bowdish's. They are handsome.  
The silk came but she used  
some alpaca or something  
that she had. It is a sort  
of basque waist, cut up  
behind. It is trimmed  
with silk around the  
bottom and sleeves.  
She charged \$2. for making  
and [found] silk and  
buttons. It is not very  
pretty but will do a

while very wall. I think she is very reasonable and she seems anxious to please. It is funny how much power the name, Vassar, has in town. All the stores are so anxious for the V.C. customer. Before vacation I had a pair of very old boots that I thought might be mended and do to wear on long walks. I took them to a shoe dealer in town. He looked at it half-contemptuously a minute saying something about "drawing the hole together" and it's being hardly worth fixing. Suddenly an idea seemed to strike him. He started, and asked if we were from the college. We said yes. Then he took up the boot, said he presumed the other was good and he could fix this very nicely. He told me how he meant to do it and how well it would look. I said I wanted it as soon as possible. He said his man would be in soon and he should go to work right away and might have it in half an hour. I came in in twenty minutes, and it was mended very nicely. Besides he only charged half what others would. I thought something was up. I was right. He said "Do you buy your boots of Gilder sleeve?" Anna said yes. (G. comes to the college twice a month with a stock of boots, so all the girls buy of him.) Then he ran down G. fearfully, said he was no shoemaker, had no idea how to select shoes; If we would come to

him he would make it  
worth our while. I priced  
some of his boots and  
they did seem cheap. But  
it is funny how they work  
for Vassar custom. Why a  
dealer in P. will run all  
over town for half a yard  
of cambric for a Vassar girl.  
They are paid for it too, for  
if one goes to a place, many  
are sure to follow and few  
of the girls mind what price  
they pay. Do go to Mrs. Blaisdell's  
If you possibly can. Take  
some little sewing with  
you let the rest wait. I can sew when I  
come home in the summer. I don't  
see what will be best for  
next summer, to do  
and go, I mean. It  
would be expensive to  
stay in Prov. nearly  
as much so as to board  
away in some places.  
I don't know whether Ed is  
teaching or not. Presume  
so. I wrote him the other  
day, and directed it to  
Glover. He said in his last  
he had not heard from you for a  
long time. On the other side  
is a plan of my room  
and parlor.  
Eva M. Tappan

[Back of last sheet of original letter contains plan of Parlor 67]