

[Freshman year Mohonk Trip]

Sunday morning.
Oct. 21, 1900

Dear mama.

First for your questions - I received your letter yesterday - and was so glad to get. I think I wrote you about the possibilities for Thanksgiving, and I hope you have received the letter. Aunt Marie spoke to me about a new dress. I hardly think I will need one - at

least not at present. I have had to wear the blue broadcloth skirt quite a little - for church - and one or two other occasions. My blue silk waist I have worn once or twice and like very much. I have worn my other silk waist a lot. We are supposed to dress for dinner-and-on Friday and Saturday and of course Sunday- and my red silk waist comes in very handy. I rather wish I had another skirt as I don't like to wear the broadcloth so much now- and I may need it later. The brown skirt does not seem to fit in with the Fall weather and the occasions when I have to wear a silk waist. But I don't think I shall want any thing made just now. We have been having perfectly beautiful October weather and everything is so beautiful here. About under drawers- I think I would rather have them for most occasions - but the tights are very handy for very cold days -when we walk to College. Are my old ones any good? If they are, I think it would be nice to have them- They would save washing a good deal - and I think I could wear them a good deal. Perhaps one pair of under drawers would do if I had the tights. Now for what I have been doing. Friday night came the play to which we went with Julia Pulsifer. It was simply fine. I will send one of the programs. Two of the girls were dressed as men and were great - and one who was Kitty Clive was just sweet. They acted very well indeed - and I had a very good time. It was short - all over by nine - so we got back early - and got to sleep because the next day we were going to Mohonk.

I wish I could tell you what a splendid time I had there - but it is almost impossible. We got up at a quarter past five - had breakfast and started to walk over to the College to meet the barge - or wagons there. But we met a carriage - going to the College with only one Senior in it - and she asked us to drive over with her - of which we were duly thankful as it was dreadfully cold at that hour in the morning. We were all bundled up - I had on my winter skirt - a flannel waist and my winter Jacket and heavy golf skirt - and the rest were similarly fixed. We got to the College at just about half past six - and got into a barge with about twenty very nice girls - and then the drive of eighteen miles began - We crossed the Hudson - and went straight over hills and through valleys and had a beautiful trip - It was just the day for it. The last two miles we had to walk as it was too hilly for the horses to carry us. I never saw such a beautiful place as Mohonk is. The rocks are tremendous - and right in a cavity - quite large as Lake Mohonk - which is very-very deep - and of a beautiful color. We got there at about a quarter past eleven - and as luncheon was at a quarter to twelve - we had just time to row around the lake. Then we had a lunch of sandwiches - and eggs - and milk, coffee and cake- all that we wanted of everything. Right after lunch we started to walk to Sky Top, the highest place at Mohonk. It was a very easy walk - and we had a beautiful view of the surrounding country - which I would not have missed for a good deal. Then we

thought we would go down by means of the crevice - which is a deep split in the rocks - Just wide enough for a person to get through - it goes down very steep - and you have to be very careful about where you put your feet - and what you take hold of. Part of the way there were some rather rickety ladders. The place is so narrow that sometimes - some girls have gotten stuck there and have had a dreadful time, I was scared stiff when I first started down - it was so nearly perpendicular - but I did not mind it so much afterwards- After we reached the foot of the crevice - we had to walk - what seemed miles to me - over rocks and stones in great confusion. It is a wonder we did not all sprain our ankles. But nothing serious happened- When we finally reached the road we were so hot and tired with all our winter clothing - that we could have sat still for hours- But we had to make for the hotel as it was just about time for the barges to leave. So we hurried back and got there in plenty of time. The ride home was lots of fun and not at all tiresome. We sang and yelled our yell which one of the girls made up.

"Silence, silence, we implore
Hear the class of nineteen four"
(Fast) We can read and we can write
Take impressions out of sight,
In athletics we will scare,
Vassar College nineteen four."

This is very impressive when yelled by twenty odd girls. That line "Take impressions out of sight" is a jibe at the English department. We got home at six o'clock after a very happy day - We slept soundly I can assure you and this morning we are so lame we can hardly move. But I would not have missed the trip for anything. Every thing was so entirely different from what we have been accustomed to. The rocks were simply great - and the foliage was so beautiful.

Miss Gail Shepard - whose letter you enclosed - has been to call on me - when I was not at home. I am going to call on her soon. I must stop now and get ready for chapel. I don't know who is going to preach. Did I tell you that Mr. Sylvester of Albany preached here one Sunday. He is a friend of the Gavits you know. Mr- Horr of Boston preached last Sunday.

I will send one of the Mohonk pamphlets which may give you a little idea of the place.

Very lovingly
Lea.

(Lea D. Taylor, '04)