

Vassar College

Po'keepsie, N.Y, Feb. 16, 1876

My dear father and Mother—

The mail has come for this morning but there was no letter for me and I always get one Wednesdays but perhaps it will come this afternoon. It rained here very hard yesterday and the day before, but last night it froze hard and to-day the wind is blowing at a furious rate. Bertha Hasbrook died Tuesday night. Her mother came last week Friday. I was mistaken her father was not here. They telegraphed to him Tuesday morning and he got here this morning at 9.30. I was walking and met him as he got out of the car and I never saw such agony on any person's face as there was on his. Don't suppose he knew it until his brother met him at the depot. Yesterday Miss Lucy summoned us all to the chapel and said we must be cautious in writing to our friends that we gave them to understand that it was not contagious that caused her death, but rheumatic fever with other causes. Yesterday we had our lessons as usual but this morning college duties are suspended and at 11 there is to be short service in the chapel. All her acquaintances have the privilege of seeing the corpse in Miss Terry's parlor fifteen minutes before the service. They return home this morning. Had but these two daughters and this one was the youngest she was eighteen. Two weeks ago, a young lady in their parlor was summoned heme by the death of her sister and Bertha said, "It would kill me, if any of my friends should die. I hope I will be the first one." She was a member of the Exotic society. Yesterday the society appointed a committee to get flowers and have them arranged so they could be transported. They have a beautiful cross and anchor. She has been sick but little over a week and it does seem so hard for us all. I can never forget that father's face. He looks very much like you, Pa, only his whiskers and hair are more grey. Received a letter from Nellie yesterday and she asked me to get her a silk. Now if she sends me a sample and tells me just how much she is willing to pay, I think

I had better get it for her. I was looking in my trunk the other day and saw there was a grease spot right on the tab of my Japanese basque. How can I get it off? My silk handkerchief looks ever so nice and so does the tie. I like the lace on it, never saw that way before. I hope my alpaca will come this week, for I do not like to wear my silk every Sunday. Seven weeks before vacation, I am getting very impatient for the time to come when I can be home once more. What am I to buy in N.Y.? Don't think I am in to great a hurry, for you know it takes some time to think of all the little things and write about them. Pa what are you thinking about the centennial? Please tell me. Have just come from the service. The President's remarks were very touching and very appropriate. He said we had not one tear to shed for her for she was a Christian, all our sorrow was for her bereaved parents and friends. She was unconscious all the time. Only recognized her mother once. Some say she had typhoid fever but I guess it is not so. I will wait until the other mail comes before I finish this, and maybe there will be a letter for me. I so hope there will be. After dinner: The letter came this noon, and I was so glad. Thank you ever so much for it. Now, Ma, I do not want that brown silk I want you to have it and to have a pretty brown hat to wear with it, I have my black silk, grenadine and white and those are all the dresses I care for this summer. And I want you to make that up stylish and pretty for yourself. Your grenadine will do for every day and afternoon, S.S. and that kind of wear, and you do not want to make up your black silk before fall do you? So you see, you need it. Pa please send me more than the \$100. How is Mrs. Simpson? Ben does not say when he will come, only not before March. Hope he wont come unless he wants to. Guess he corresponds with Maud and Lute from what he wrote, but I did not say one word about it to him in my letter. I can not always send a letter Wednesdays, but to-day did not have any lesson to learn. Am so glad I will have my dress by Saturday.

Pa please send the money right away
if you have not already. Pa you must write
next time.

From your loving daughter
Addie Thompson

Send me more stamps please.