

Vassar College  
Jan. 20th, 1866.

My dear dear Mother:

It is just four months today since we arrived here. It seems longer than that to me. I think likely the next five months will seem much shorter.

How do you all do? Mattie received a letter from Helen yesterday and one from Carrie also, the day before she had one from Sara. The poor child is having a pretty hard time with her face. The pain lasted hard for three days, & for the last two it has been very badly swollen. Not as badly as last year though still she is far from comfortable. I hope that the worst of it is over with. Indeed I suppose of course that it is. I am very glad to hear that our letters arrived at last. Did you ever receive the one I wrote from Brooklyn? The weather is very warm for winter & it is of course muddy, rainy and unpleasant generally. How do you prosper in all your numerous undertakings for missionary boxes, Ellen Keith, &c.? Oh.' Mother you don't know how much I want to see you. Won't we all be glad when summer comes and we go home. Don't think that I am at all homesick for I am not. I enjoy the life here very much. There is a great charm in it. This whole devotion of energies & plans to study. You don't know what pleasant people Prof, and Mrs. Tenney are. They live next door to us, and Mrs. Tenney has been so kind since Jan. 20, 1866 -2

Mattie has had her sore face. Mrs. Tenney has had me come Into her kitchen and make hop poultices for her & twice has sent her in some floating island for her dinner. They are just as good as they can be. I want you should please give Helen & Willie the conundrum, "Spell from head to foot with two letters"? We have been having a great deal of fun with conundrums lately. Do you know this one, "If Solomon was the son of David and Joab was the son of Jermiah, what relation was Jermiah to Joab? " Also when was Ruth cruel to Boaz. Ask Father why the Wall St. brokers in the crisis 1857 were like Pharaoh's daughter? Did you like Gough's new lecture ? I hope that you will hear Anna Dickinson. We have had more fun that a little over our remarkable time going to hear her. I like Miss Avery very much indeed. When you wrote to us about her was before we knew her hardly at all. She is a very fine woman intellectually, morally, & physically. She is very pleasant, especially after you know her. She has lately given the school Physiological lectures and her manner is the pleasantest of any woman whom I ever heard speak to an assembly. Has Father gone to Washington. I hope that his journey will be a safe one when it is made. I don't owe anyone a letter. Don't you congratulate me? Our Greek class has not recited yet this term, Prof. Knapp owing to the change in teachers has been so busy, fc I have been improving my extra leisure

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time in writing letters and other things that ordinarily I have little time for. We begin next week I rather think. How are all the good people in our church? I wish the walking was going to be good and I would walk to church tomorrow. Those girls from Buffalo that Helen spoke of in her letter to Mattie are nothing remarkable. I am sorry they are discontented. They are back here, but I believe only stay until the end of the half year. Miss Allen is a pretty good scholar & quite a nice girl but nothing wonderful. Cassie Howard is from 6. also. She is quite young & has a great admiration for Minnie & is a nice little thing. There was a Miss Douglass here from New London Conn, that I think likely is related to us. She is not here this term. She lost a sister in vacation. Auntie told me that we had cousins by that name & that Aunt Eatie went to see them. She is a very nice girl. Cousin Emma had a letter from Aunt Martha a few days ago. She sent her love

to us. I told Emma not to give any message from us no reply, Ic not to say anything about us. She said that she would not of course give messages if we did not send any but she would say what she was a mind to. That won't be anything uncomplementary, I assure you. Aunt Martha wants to know if the standard here is as high as at Holyoke. Cousin E. says she is going to praise the College to the skies. I like Emma very much indeed. I hope she will stop to see you on her way west in the Spring.

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Love to all.

Good by With a heart full of love your

Hattie

Minnie & Mattie send love. I suppose Mrs. Dickinson has been to see you before this.