

Vassar College, Oct 29, 1866.

My dear Willie;

It is about ten minutes before time for our Greek Testament class to commence reciting & I am going to improve the time by beginning this letter. We went over the river Saturday, & I wish you could have been with us; or rather, as I suppose that would have been entirely contrary to College etiquette, I wish we could some time go there together. The rocks are very fine indeed. They are almost close to the waters edge, just room for a very narrow road. We went along the road examining the rocks for a little ways and then up to the top of the ridge. The view up and down the river was beautiful. If they only had our river, or we their hills what a magnificent view there would be. The water of the Hudson is quite muddy, and the river here is not more than half a mile wide. We most of us wore our gymnasium suits, which added very much to our ease & comfort. The place is very retired & of course we all rode down to the ferry. We are talking about a course of lectures. We want to have some of the best lecturers & to have a lecture about once a month through the winter. The faculty are expected to decide this afternoon whether we will be permitted to do it or not. We sent them in a list of the lecturers we wanted, & they are requested to approve them. Which I expect they will do. What lectures have there been at home this fall? And who are expected? I am very much afraid that we will be unable to secure the lecturers we want it is so late in the season. I suppose that next week the elections take place. If Detroit goes Democratic won't it be too bad? You should have seen Minnie and me out rowing the other day. I attempted to row alone at first & couldn't make but one oar go at a time, & so we each of us took one & dipped them in about alternately & not regularly at that. Then Helen took the front oars & I the others & do all I could if I dipped my oars into the water at all I could not keep them out of the way of hers. It was fortunate for us that we had no current & a flat bottomed boat that couldn't tip over without great effort. I should hardly like to try the experiment in the little boat you built. It is raining hard today, & is quite cold. We have been having very pleasant days though. I felt sorry to send you such a short letter as I did last time but I was in a great hurry about something, and had not time to write more. I hope very much that we will go up to Vermont next vacation. I know we should have a delightful time. There are so many people whom we want to see. What became of the Ann Arbor prizes this year? Did any of the D.H.S. boys take them. It will seem too bad if they fall of it, if they try. Do you ever see Mr. Jones? I hear that the High School is very prosperous this year, & that the class of scholars is very good. Does Harlie Ballard attend there or at Mr. Patterson's ? I suppose that this is your busy season, and you have to work pretty hard. How much I would enjoy spending this afternoon & evening at home, with you & Mother. I am afraid it would do no good to the lessons that are to be recited tomorrow morning. Please give much love to them all at home, to the girls & other people in general. Do you ever see Carrie and Lucy except at church? Has Father gone to Maine yet? & does he expect to call & see us ? Write to me soon do
Your loving sister,
Hattie.
[Harrlette (Warner) Bishop, '67]