

Vassar College.

April 1868.

Dear Mother.

I received your note just before I mailed my letter to Hattie and her letter with the inclosure just after.

I think both letters exceedingly satisfactory more so than I expected. Thank you very much for your note to me and the letter which I received some time ago. I am very much grieved to hear about your eyes - and hope most earnestly that they will be better before long.

About my going away it makes me feel sober too when I stop to think of it in that way for all I have thought about it so much and so long. But the most that I am anxious about after all is that I may be able to do my work well. I prayed when I began to think about it this spring that if God was willing to have me work for him in this way he would make the way clear and easy for me - and I think he is doing it, Mother. Father has been exceedingly kind to me in the whole matter. It is very good of him to take the whole burden of the correspondence upon himself. I don't think I shall forget it very soon.

Chris Lord is very well spoken of here, and I believe very much liked. I shall do my best to make friends with her - our present acquaintance is very slight. It will be very pleasant to have some one with me whom I knew before if the plan mentioned by Mr. Clark is carried out.

Now Mother please don't say any thing about this to any one at all - not even to Mrs Sumner or Mrs Ballard - of course I am not in the least ashamed of my plans but it is very unpleasant to have them talked over before one is sure whether or not they will be accomplished.

Don't spend a moment's thought worrying about my health. I never was better in my life. Hard work and regular hours agree with me I believe - This is vacation - I am as lazy as I please which is an unspeakable gratification. The weather is too fearful for any expeditions. I went out to row this morning & found the pond frozen almost all the way across in some places. It is endless to say that we found it too cold to row very long.

I am glad that you can find any cause to rejoice that I have no work to do for Commencement. Of course there is no good in lamenting over what can't be helped but I have not reached the point of rejoicing yet. There is no news at all - Mattie is much better - she would send love if she were here but she is off in one of the other girls' rooms.

Please give my love to all my friends - Thank Hattie for her letter. I'll write her next - Mattie has come in and is feasting on some taffy which Mrs Tenney made for her cold - She says tell Mother I consider Lather the finest man that ever breathed the breathe of life.

Your aff. daughter,  
Helen.