

Vassar Oct. 16, 1865.

My dear Mother,

I came very near writing to you last night if it was Sunday, and was only prevented by being so sleepy that I went to bed instead. Yesterday went off quite as entirely to my satisfaction, perhaps more so, than any since I have been here. In the first place it was rainy, and that was precisely what we had been wishing for, ever since we came. It rained violently all day and, I hope, has done much good. Then we were all dressed some time before the bell rang, a very unusual circumstance which put us all in high spirits. Next the Bible Classes were subdivided yesterday and to my intense joy I was assigned to Prof. Tenney - Hattie and Minnie to Prof. Knapp. He takes it up with reference to the Greek. We are going to study Isaiah. It was so stormy yesterday that Prof. Knapp who lives in the city was not present, so Hattie came into our class, she told me afterwards, that she did not know but she envied me after all. In the afternoon Rev. Thomas Beecher, of Elmira, preached for us. His text was, Luke 24.32. "And they said one to another. Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures?" It was very plain and simple, not at all Beechery in his style or manner, but it was certainly one of the best sermons I ever

heard. I don't mean in point of rhetoric, but of instruction. I hope that Henry Ward will come up to see us this winter. He ought to, being one of the Trustees. Miss A very doesn't look as if she had had a history although after the reading of your letter, Hattie and Minnie concluded that there is something about her mouth conveying the impression of some kind of a secret. (What a graceful sentence) She looks to me something like young Mrs. Ward with all the sweetness taken out of her face. She has a very decided look, just as if she was capable of doing what you said. I don't know her at all, but she is not a favorite with those who do. I only hope I shan't be sick here. Hattie says that she shall never let me be taken to the "Inventory". I don't think Miss Lyman is much of a sight. She is very pleasant, but can be awfully stern. I don't think she is any more like Mother than I am sure I don't know what. Prof. Knapp, Prof. Tenny, and Mrs. Pres. Raymond, are our biggest sights, also the little Raymond child aged four years - I wouldn't have you think that I don't like Miss Lyman. I do, very much. I am growing very impatient to see you. you are surely coming are you not? I am going to take you up to my room, see if I don't - I feel just as stupid as an owl - therefore you must excuse the brilliancy of this document. I shall try and do better next time. (You'll get tired of that before long I'm afraid). Minnie had a paper this morning saying that Tillie Davenport has married her Major General. I am very glad. The same paper brought intelligence of the death of Mrs. Degarmo Jones. I didn't suppose she was so old. What a pity that you couldn't remember Mr. Freeland's message - Please give our love to him especially mine - Mrs. Raymond I always send love to, whether I say so or not, also Mrs. Freeland Mrs. Hibbard and the girls - How is Mrs. Howard? Tell Nell I shall write to her pretty soon, unless there is a prospect of something interesting's happening - Our life goes along in a sort of monotone, nothing occurs that would interest any one outside the building. Rev. Mr. Beecher took dinner here today. Miss Sayles and Miss Avery sat one on each side of him - We have lost our nice dining room girl. She had a fuss with Mrs. Fowler, and was started off - We have got the pokiest thing in her place. Yesterday she didn't get us helped to meat until we had been at the table twenty five minutes - We had ever so much fun and Mrs. Fowler gave her a scolding that made her cheeks burn. She did better today - Minnie and Hattie send much love - Has Father entirely forgotten us. He hasn't so

much as sent his love to us since we left. How is Le Maire? likewise Billy Gray?
Love to all at home & abroad - Your loving daughter -

Mattie S. W.

You didn't ask me any questions did you?