

Vassar Nov. 25

My dearly beloved and ever to be respected Maternal Parent,
With whom do you think I have had the exquisite felicity of visiting this evening -
Guess. Its no use, you'd never imagine in the world. It was no less distinguished
gentleman than John Gilbert! He came up on his way to New York, and Miss Gilbert
obtained permission for us to see him - As you may imagine we were nothing loth to
avail ourselves of the opportunity to converse with one of the species of Sunday
A.M. coat wearing animals. He is quite good looking, very pleasant, very much of a
gentleman, and altogether is a remarkably agreeable person. Hattie and I were the
envied ones at our table last night I can assure you, as we gave most glowing
descriptions of our call. Miss Gilbert went down to New York with him, and never
took us too! wasn't she mean? I hope they will see Father. Mr. G. took Uncle Edwin's
address. They both seemed anxious to see him. Miss Gilbert evidently considers him
something little short of a miracle. Father is splendid! He has written to us every
day since he has been in New York. I think he is very kind indeed - Isn't it
delightful that he should have met Mr. and Mrs. Catlin? How delighted they all must
have been! I wish they would invite us up to Burlington for the Holidays - wouldn't
it be magnificent - I think they might. Hattie is half crazy to walk down to church
this morning. I think Miss Lyman might let her, but Hattie won't ask her as she
doesn't know of any teacher who is going, and has no faith in being allowed to go
alone. Minnie has a hard headache today - Two of the Episcopalian girls came in to
see if Minnie would be willing to ask Miss Lyman if she could take them down, but
Minnie was not able to go - and Miss Lyman wouldn't let them go alone. I do hope we
shall all be allowed to go to Church Thanksgiving day - I really think they ought
to. If we have service here, I hope and trust that it wont be in the afternoon. Next
Sunday is Communion Sabbath, so that we will all go without difficulty. I wish that
we had Communion on the same Sunday that you do at home, it would be much
pleasanter, then it comes immediately after morning service, which seemed very
strange to me, as I had never seen it before. It seems so queer to have Miss Gilbert
gone. I find myself listening for her step and wondering why she doesn't come. She
has been very good to us indeed. I didn't dream of her being so good and kind. I
think those tintypes of baby are very good. We all like them much better than the
photograph. Are they all scratched? I hope not. How is the little Colburn baby? I
hope you go up there often. When you see her kiss her for me. I wish I could see all
three of them. Tell Will that when the organ is quite built I am going to propose
his name to the Executive Committee as blower thereof - Does it seem possible that
Christmas is almost here? We have had scarcely a thought of winter here. Some of the
girls are very busy preparing for Christmas, but we benighted creatures at 23, have
almost forgotten that there was such a day, to say nothing of making presents for it
- I assure you we were much gratified by your kind invitation for spend Sunday at
home. Minnie said "I say girls let's go." We all said "Yes by all means, of course
we will", but Miss Gilbert put an end to all our plans by marching off to Now York
and we couldn't go without a teacher. I would be ever so much obliged to you, if you
would send me some of that very narrow red velvet. I think I could wear it and I
should like it extremely. I thank you very much for the blue it is beautiful -
Please give a great deal of love to Mrs. Raymond and Mrs. Freeland, Mrs. Hibbard &
Mr Freeland of course - I am very glad Mrs. Clark came to see you. What has become
of John & his wife? How sad about Mr. Sile-bee. What has caused his sudden poverty?
I wish I could kiss you Mother dear Shan't I be glad when next summer comes? Are you

going to have any one at home Thanksgiving Day? I am fairly aching for a sight of home and home people. Now don't you say I am homesick - On the contrary I am gaining flesh every day - There are some dear good girls here. Minnie is an immense favorite & Hattie & I shine comfortably in reflected glory. Minnie is just as good and lovely as she can be. I love her better every single day of my life, love to every one from your loving daughter
Mattie.