

Vassar Mar. 14/66-

My own dear Mother,

I can assure you that your letter was welcomed with enthusiasm, this noon. I have often felt since I have been here, what a good thing it is to have a mother to write me such good long letters. What an active young lady you are becoming! I don't believe Nellie could endure such an amount of running as you related of yourself, for last week. (Graceful sentence isn't it?) Is Willie's acute so very bad? Poor boy! what does he do with himself all day? How I wish I was at home to help comfort and entertain him. Tell the young man that I have read out loud so much lately that I am becoming quite an adept, and am ready to fill all orders with neatness and dispatch - I am afraid you won't feel inclined to vouch the same for my letters. I am really ashamed of them, and mean every time to do better, but seem to do worse instead - Helen Swift is expected here tomorrow morning. The thought of seeing her is very pleasant to us. I wish it was a little more decided weather, but I had rather see her in the mud, rain and wind, than not at all. I haven't any idea how long she will remain. She will be Miss Usher's guest, right under us - Helen didn't tell me a word about either who joined the church, or Scripps' essay in monthly concert. Do tell me all about it, I am anxious to hear some news of that worthy man. (Hattie has confiscated my pea, and this is the meanest one I had any thing do with.) I am glad that you and Fannie Hammond are having so pleasant a visit. I am sorry that Will's dislike for poor Cornelia Ponfield continues unabated - Give Nellie all manner of commiseration from each and every one of us. I hope her illness was caused by neither the decay incident upon old age, nor by excessive gormandizing. The latter bears the blame of all my various aches and ills, the former of Hattie's and Minnie's Minnie and Helen Dana (aged 24) have decided to marry young, and are anxious that Helen should bear them company in the determination, also in the praiseworthy deal with which they intend pursuing any opportunities chance may offer them. Miss Gilbert expresses joy at not having heard the resolution, "because her mother wouldn't like to have such ideas put into her head." Dutiful child! I am very glad that Mrs. Clark has been to see you at last. I hoped that you would see a good deal of her this winter - Just think Mother dearest! spring is fully here, the grass is beginning to grow green, the air is tangy and, the walking muddy -

in fifteen weeks from today I shall start for home! In five weeks from today Sara becomes Mrs. Ladue! Does it seem possible? I can't realise it at all - How does Mrs. Pomeroy continue to be liked No one has mentioned her at all lately and never but once her youthful daughter Do the girls like her as well as at first? We are going to have a concert here Friday night. Prof. Wiebe is anxious to prove to world that music can be taught in classes. I'll write Emma about it - Ask her how she would like to hear the Wedding March played by thirty two hands? Eight pianos, two at each. I haven't been invited to take part as yet, doubtless because he felt that I needed no previous practice - Please ask Will what French books they use at the High School? I am very anxious to know. I am fairly ashamed to send this letter, but I know you won't judge me harshly - Give a great deal of love to every body, and oceans of it to yourself from your daughter Mattie - Minnie and Hattie send love - I want to go home, and I want something real good to eat - I wonder if you at home look forward to next June with half as much eagerness as we do. I can hardly wait - When is Father going home? We have heard nothing of him lately. You must miss him - Good night again - a thousand kisses Mattie. Love to Mary C. and baby when you see

them - I forgot to say that the money came safely and I am very much obliged.