

Vassar Mar. 19, 1866

My dearest Mother,

It is cold as Greenland's icy mountain today, which is rendered all the more noticeable, from the fact that for several days past, the thermometer has stood at sixty° or thereabouts. I can't bear to see any returning symptoms of winter, I do so long for summer and home. We heard from Emma Hopkins today. She is very busy preparing for May, she says that her spine troubles her very much, but her head is better - I hope she will have a good long rest, and entirely recover her health after she is married. Her Aunt Parker gave her a set of teaspoons, and helped her very much with her sewing - I presume Emma has told you about Helen Swift's visit. We were delighted to see her, but very much disappointed at the brevity of her visit. We had hoped she would stay over Sunday. She says that Mrs. Ball is very well and has gone home to stay until after July, through the summer I think she said. Miss Swift has gone to housekeeping, or rather is going - She has bought a house and Mrs. Wright and her son are going to live with her. Helen looks just the same as ever. Charlie came up with her. He is in a law office, is very busy, and in fine spirits. Minnie and John Almy are in Brooklyn. Minnie thought some of coming up. I very much wish she had. Minnie D. had a letter from Horace Burt today, in which he proposed at some future time (not distinctly stated) to call upon her, in her rural retreat - He sent his regards to Hattie, but entirely ignored me. Finney has dropped the ministry, and is about to enter the N.Y. bar. Hattie had a long letter today from Miss Leach, she seemed well and happy. I suppose Fannie Hammond has left - I hope you were not utterly tired out, both of you. Miss Gilbert says she is hard to talk with. Minnie received a letter from Little Brown & co. the other day, to whom she had written in reference to a book, which was directed to "Mrs. M. S. Dickinson," and addressed "Mrs. M. S. Dickinson, Dear Sir-" Business-like isn't it? Minnie told Helen Dana, that she had got the start after all. Have you read Whittier last poem "Snowbound"? If not do get it and read it. I think it is exquisite - Shouldn't you like to see one of those great snow storms? Miss Treadwell from Jackson Mich, received the notice of her brother's death, on Saturday - Just think, he was dead and buried before she heard of it - The Saturday before there were two girls telegraphed for, one to attend the death bed of her aunt, the other the funeral of her Mother. It makes me tremble to hear of so much trouble. I am so afraid some of you will be sick before we get home. Is there actually so much alarm and excitement in Canada and thereabouts, as the papers represent? What geese the Canadians must be! The Free Press takes it up as solemnly as if it soberly believed, that the whole thing would go off with out the slightest difficulty - It must be fun to see the beloved birds flocking to our shores. Sannie Tenney has had the croup, and is really quite sick. I do hope the dear little fellow will get well soon. I am exceedingly tired and sleepy, and think it will be altogether for the interest of both you, and myself, if I stop while my eyes are open. In some of these blissful days about now, Big Sinn contemplates taking unto himself a partner of his Joys and sorrows. Happy Mortal! Tell Nellie to please write soon. How's Willie's acute? Love to Cousin Bell and Bridget - Has Father wandered home again? Love to all at home & abroad - Hattie and Minnie send love - I am extremely sleepy - Good night. In fourteen weeks from next Wednesday I'm going home.

Your loving daughter Mattie-