

Vassar College.
May 13th, 1866

My dearest Mother,

How much would you give to have us at home this beautiful May morning, going to church as Christian people should do, instead of lounging around aimlessly until time to dress for dinner, or after dinner for chapel. This morning however, we contemplate an excursion to sun rise hill, famous for its beautiful scenery - but, owing to its situation, just outside bounds, we have never been there. Dr. Raymond has however proclaimed liberty to all seniors, juniors, and all over twenty, which last was an important addition as no mortal persons know whether they are in the Freshman or Senior year - Minnie is going try for a standing permission for me to go with her and Hattie. I don't much believe she will succeed. We were delighted with Helen's letter - I am glad that you liked Emma so well, Mr. Cartledge also - I shall always be thankful that she came here, and we became so well acquainted with her. I am also glad that she read that account of Founder's Day, she could make you understand much better. Helen said that you would be house-cleaning this week, I hope you have not worked too hard, or got too tired, you must take good care of yourself. Only five more Sundays Mother! I can't realize it at all. I am very sorry, much as I want to be at home again, to have the time fly so. We have a great many good friends here, who do not intend to return next year and whom I shall be very sorry to lose sight of. Minnie says decidedly that she shall not return. The girls here are grand. It does not seem possible that we can have so many smart girls here another year, although of course there are a great many in the country. Miss Mitchel firmly believes, and loudly affirms, that no future class will ever be equal to her present astronomy class. I don't believe that she will ever feel the same pride in and affection for, another, that she does for these her first pupils. I suppose that Sara Ladue (do look at it) is very busy moving. I have been looking eagerly for a letter from her, but of course her time is very much occupied in receiving calls, and getting settled in her new home. Of course Mrs. Ladue did not succeed in finding another house, or you would have told me. Won't it be joyful to see her again. Do her new dignities as a married woman alter her any? I hope she will live happily with the old lady and Lottie. I do wish the latter would be married - What has become of Carrie? I have heard nothing of or from her lately. Did Mr. Lever come, and how did you like him? I hope they'll settle Mr. Ballard if you like him - I feel very indifferent indeed about it - In fact I can hardly realize that we have no minister, or that it will ever make any difference to me who preaches there - I am very glad that that Concert did so finely to such large houses. Tom wrote that it was very remarkably fine. Congratulate Willie that he is through. How old he is getting! I declare I shall hardly know him, almost seventeen - I am very impatient to see him, he must be sure and be at the depot - I have so much to say to you Mother dear, that I have resolved not tell you anything till I go home, which must account for the meagre character of my documents. Of course you know that Katie Penfield's father is dead, and that the Manlys have moved into her house. I'm going to write to Sara tonight. I feel just like it, and have nothing else to do. Please give my love to the usual persons. We didn't go to Sunrise Hill it was so windy - Minnie has the headache, but I hope she'll sleep it off - I am surprised she hasn't had one before. Hattie and I still preserve our accustomed health, altho' a sermon an hour long of the stupidiest material he ever displayed to us, nearly broke down my constitution this afternoon. Prof. & Mrs. Tenney and the young Tenney are all

well - Prof. T. is our Father Confessor I dont know what would become of us without him - Mrs. T. is as lovely as ever - Mrs. Knapp made us a call nearly an hour long Saturday. She is a charming little lady. Miss Usher is very miserable. I am afraid she won't try it here another year - Miss Gilbert has been sick for a day or two, but is well now. She is growing old and rheumatic - Our fascinating Baptist minister has the impudence to be a married man - Tell Nellie that she is greedy to want another letter before she has answered mine - Love to all -

Good bye your loving daughter Mattie -