

Vassar College
Sept. 15, 1866-

Dear Mother,

How I hope you went straight to bed after we left and stayed there until you were entirely rested. My conscience smites me every time I recall your poor tired face. I hope next year will be easier. I have been industrious in the extreme, having finished my blue silk, and brown alpaca, and partly sewed the velvet on to my black alpaca. Helen has, I believe, finished all her sewing; she has also passed her preliminary examinations, but has not yet been examined for classification. Every one seems to think that we must have spent all our vacation in electioneering for Vassar College. I'm sorry for I don't want people to imagine that they are the class of students our efforts produce. Some of them however are very desirable girls - Fannie King, Delia Howard and Mary Gillett are, I fancy, good scholars, the High School girls I know are, and some of the others I know are not. I hope they will all do well. The College seemed desolate enough this year before the old scholars returned the first day we were here I don't believe there were a twenty old students. Thursday I was in the parlor all day, and I assure you that any familiar face was very welcome. I think that now there are nearly one half old students, but it's forlorn. There is a Miss Stoddard here, a daughter of the missionary, who is a very pleasant girl. I am sure we will like her very much; she graduated at South Hadley this summer. Emma Cartlidge's niece is also here, I guess she'll be nice, but she's very young - Miss Pope is a fine looking girl, that is she appears like a young lady of strong character. I like Miss Bartlett's looks very well. There are quite a number of new teachers but I know none of them, nor do I particularly fancy their appearance. I am very thankful that Aunt Mary is with you. I hope she'll stay a long time, certainly until Aunt Charlotte has gone. What would we have done without Auntie those last days? Please tell little Mary that we are under great obligations to her for her lamp lighters. We were very glad to hear from Uncle Cephus - it seems that he escaped from Canada in safety, congratulate him. I am glad that Uncle Cephus sent Helen's character. I was afraid she would be called upon for it, and be found wanting. You don't know how glad our Profs- were to see us, it did me good to hear Prof. Knapp exclaim "Oh, Miss Warner." Poor Mrs. Knapp was very dangerously ill during vacation, the Prof- doesn't seem at all rested - Prof. Tenney & his wife are very well - Sannie is as cross as a bear. Hattie is anxious that you should get that velvet, and send her a little piece in a letter, as she wants a braid to match the velvet - Miss Lyman has been as sweet as honey in concentrated essence - I don't know how long it will last - It's forlorn to have Hattie poke off every night. I mean to have a bed made on top of the wardrobe and put Hattie in it - Minnie says Hattie shall share her wardrobe and bureau, if she will only come back. I am going to write you very soon a good long respectable letter, but tonight we have company, and I can do nothing at all - Give a great deal of love to every body - Tell Willie I'll write soon, meanwhile he must do me credit - Tell Carrie I'll write soon, but she musn't wait - Sara also. Tell her that there is a young lady here named Sarah Pomeroy - Impertinent - isn't it! The Beta Chap - elected me Pres. last Friday night - Imagine me presiding over the meetings. I went to church today, with Miss Blatchley - we went to the Presbyterian church, Rev. Mr. Wheeler Pastor - Kiss every body. I do want to see you very much.

Good night - Mattie

Please send Helen's silver cup in that bundle-