

Vassar College,
Nov. 4, 1866-

My dearest Mother,

I am all alone in my room. Helen has gone to church, Mattie and Minnie are in chapel, and I have seized the opportunity to write to you. How glad I am that you could hear Mr. Ballard today, and didn't have to sit an hour and listen to Dr. Raymond - Why doesn't some institution make Mr. Ballard a D.D. I am sure he deserves it as much as any one - I wish Father would please tell Ann Arbor to show her appreciation for true talent, and give him all the title our poor ministers can ever aspire to. We told you didn't we that we were put into Prof. Knapp's Bible class? He, poor man, is so crowded with business that he finds it impossible to come up here Saturdays, even for the exquisite pleasure of having a class of sixty one girls, of all ages and beliefs, at a time when but for love of the man, they would rebel, so he has dropped us, and Miss Lyman told us to pick ourselves up, and put ourselves where we pleased, for which last unexpected concession, I assure you we blessed her - So we are in our dear Prof. Tenney's. He is treating the first chapter of Genesis taken Geologically - He was very interesting indeed this morning, and as I hear Prof. Knapp twice a week in Greek Testament I am well satisfied with the change. We have a new music teacher who has just come over from Germany, her name is Sue - She is very odd looking but may be very nice indeed. I believe that she speaks very little English. How hard it must be for Carrie to have Mrs. Avery sick. Seems to me Mrs. Avery is sick a great deal lately - I do think that Carrie is as lovely a girl as I know. Isn't it gorgeous that Maggie can use her eyes again? I think no doctor but an oculist ought ever to experiment on people's eyes. I do hope that your eyes are growing strong again. I want so much to see you Mother - it doesn't seem as if I could wait till next summer, but the time is going very fast - There is an utterly disagreeable young woman here named Frothingham, who attended Dr. Pease's church in Rochester. She sits at the head of the table this week, and as I sit close by her of course I have to be as agreeable to her as possible. She expatiated for some time on the love they all bore him, also the influence he had over the young gentlemen - Mother I don't want any bonnet, and for a hat get me any thing you want to. I don't know anything about it, not having seen a single hat of any kind. I think a felt hat would be very pretty indeed. Nellie wore her velvet hat today, and it looked very pretty - Is it not becoming? I hope that you wont be worn out with company, but yet I am glad every time I hear of any one's being at our house. I suppose that Sarah is having a splendid time keeping house. Won't it be forlorn if George has to go away - What a goose Julia LeMaire is! I am out of all manner of patience with the people. Won't you have some body at home Thanksgiving? It will be so desolate with out any one - Tell Father that he Is a jewel to want to share the good things with us, and I wish he could. I am going to write to him very soon, just as soon as I have any ideas. I am perfectly destitute of any thing of the kind. Hattie wants you to please send her, her pink Bible Dictionary - She say that she an accumulation of duties just now, but just as soon as she can, about by Teusday she will write. How did you manage with Rose and her baby both sick? Hattie likewise wants a belt. She can't find one in Poughkeepsie. She will send you a sample - All send s greet deal of love - Please remember us to all the nice people whom we like - Love to Auntie & Mary in large quantities - Willie and Father also -

Good bye - with much love from your loving daughter Mattie -