

Vassar Collage
Nov. 14, 1866

Dear Will,

Such a season of watching as we are having! I might better say they, for I have gone to bed in the most solemn manner every night at ten, and only wished that I was on the observatory roof, counting meteors. As we have not seen any shower it is only reasonable to conclude that you have shared the same sad fate - I have no faith in its appearing tonight, but from the wonderful beauty and frequency of those seen during the two proceeding nights, I have freely uttered my belief that Monday night we entered it, Tuesday we wore in it, and last night was the closing up. But as I am not an astronomer my opinion is not considered oracular in the least. I shall not attempt to describe what they saw, since Hattie will consider that peculiar privilege, and justly too, she having having been an eye witness of the wonders. Miss Lyman made arrangements to have the bells rung and the whole College aroused if the shower appeared, and when the rising bell rang yesterday morning there was a general stampede to the windows of sleepy girls, who fully believed that 'twas the middle of the night, and the shower had surely come. The Po'keepsee people have at last awakened to sense of their duties, and were so much in earnest about the shower that they were to have the bells rung. Did the Detroit people take any interest in it? Hattie had a letter from Father this morning. In which he said that when you wrote you would have a great many funny stories about the elections. Did you work much at them? Only think how soon you will be able to vote! I wish I could - The only election item that I have heard was that a man in Po'keepsie, the post master, fell dead on the court house steps on election night. He had the heart disease, and the great joy he felt on hearing of the Republican victories proved to be his death. I am surprised that the Republicans make so few demonstrations over their triumph, although I suppose I am hardly in a position to judge of any one's rejoicings. The girls are quite enthusiastic just now over archery - It seems to me rather late in the year to think about such things, but if they enjoy it I have no objection - I think it will prove rather an expensive experiment, as most of the bows, for which they pay from three to four dollars, break at the slightest strain. I presume a third of the girls have broken theirs already - We are going to begin to practice gymnastics in a little while. I must say that I don't feel very anxious for the time to come - I shall practice between nine and ten every evening, for forty minutes. Our gymnasium is a beautiful room with a deafened floor. There is also a little gallery over the platform for spectators. The room is intended for light gymnastics only - they have made no arrangements for anything else. We are not prospering very finely with our lectures - Gough can't come, nor Holland, nor Cartiss - Manning is the only one who has returned a favorable answer. What is the most aggravating part of it, is, that the girls don't even get autograph letters from the big ones - Holland's reply was printed, saying that he gives no lectures this winter - Gough's was written by a secretary, saying that he is engaged every evening till the last of May - Isn't it provoking? I think it must be profitable business to lecture. When you are a man you had better try it - I believe that you would like chemistry Will - I should love to be a practical chemist, and try all manner of beautiful experiments - So Father is going to be gone this winter - Poor Mother! Ah Will! How good you must be! You may never have such another opportunity to show forth the good there is in you. Be sure and improve it. Write soon do. I delight in your letters as do we all. Love to every one.

Your loving sister Mattie.

When I said "the girls were enthusiastic in archery" I meant the girls in general not any of our room.