

Burlington Dec. 23 [1866]

My dear Mother,

Here we are in our native city once more, enjoying ourselves highly. Katie is just as charming as can be, likewise her husband and little girl - Mrs. Pease waited over from Wednesday till Saturday noon in order to see us. She hasn't changed a particle, and doesn't look any older to us. Jennie was with her, she is just eight years old, and the resemblance between her and Mattie is very striking, although her eyes are dark. Unfortunately we missed connections at Troy and were delayed some what on the way from Troy to Rutland, so that we reached Burlington in the morning instead of evening, so that we saw less of Mrs. Pease than we otherwise should - Sarah is coming Wednesday - Mrs. Pease seemed very glad to see us, as did Katie also. They thought they would have known Hattie and Helen, but not me - Katie doesn't look at all as I expected. She is taller, and larger, and lighter, and much more lively - She looks more like you, and appears more like you than any one I ever saw - The house is very pleasant and she seems delightfully situated - Burlington doesn't look much as I thought it did, except on the hill. Hattie and Helen have much more perfect recollections of the place and people than I have, but remember the College and surroundings, and a few places which we passed coming up to the house. Mrs. Catlin and Rebecca Wheeler called yesterday. Mrs. Catlin insists upon our making her a visit, she says that we must come bag and baggage and stay. So we intend going there Saturday - Rebecca Wheeler is as tall as Libbie Town I should think - She spent a day at Vassar last June and didn't know that we were there - Wasn't it a shame? She went to see Miss Fessenden, one of the teachers. She has invited us to take tea with her Wednesday - I liked her appearance very much. Lucia Wheeler is quite well now, and is president of a home for destitute boys of which she is very fond, and for which she spends all her time. Mrs. Wheeler, Lucia, Rebecca, John's children, and Mrs. Wheeler's little boy comprise the family. George is married and lives here somewhere - I have not seen our old house yet. I have forgotten who lives there. No I haven't it is Prof. Buckham. Katie attends the new church. Helen and Hattie went this morning, but I did not feel like it - Katie plays the organ. The College is better off than it was. There is a freshman class of twenty. They like the President Mr. Angel very much - Mr. Kent called here yesterday morning. I can't say that I felt pleased to see him, but he behaved quite well - He went to Montpelier with Mrs. Pease - Katie's husband has a brother here Lincoln by name - He reminds me of Tom Pease, although he has dark eyes & hair - We shall have a delightful visit - I am very thankful that I came - They have a horse & carriage and Katie is going to take us out riding - Unfortunately the little snow which there is here is being thawed by rain - Hattie & Helen have returned from church - They saw a Mr. Hickcock whom Hattie recognized and Dr. Marsh whom they both knew - They didn't speak with either of them, but Katie asked Mr. Hickcock if he knew the young ladies she had with her, and he said he ought to know one from the resemblance she bore her father and the other from that to her mother. Poor unhappy me, who look like nobody nobody knows - Hattie and Helen send a great deal of love - I shall write again very soon, and I presume Hattie will also - Write to me as soon as you can please and tell me all about Christmas. I am afraid that you will find it rather solitary - But then think of next year - They have all inquired very affectionately about you all at home - Good bye dear - Give my love and a Merry Christmas to all the people for us - I hope that you will keep well all winter, and do if you can have some one with you will Father is gone - It seemed so funny to go through Fair Haven Caselton and Pittsford

- Love to every body.

Your daughter Mattie S. W

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.