

Vassar College  
Feb. 3, 1867

My dearest Mother,

Isn't it gorgeous that Sarah has a little boy? I am so delighted that she is fairly over it and has a dear little baby. I could tell that something grand had happened when I saw Father's direction on the envelope. Have you seen the little chap? Of course you have though, how absurd of me to ask you. Do write to me all about him, unless you go to see Uncle Shepherd. What time of day or night was he born? Who is Sarah's nurse? Mrs. Jones I suppose. How funny George must seem as a father. Oh dear! how much I do want to be home, and see all the wonderful sights. It seems as though Sarah's baby must belong to us in great measure. Poor Auntie! I am so sorry for her. What will she do with all her little children if Uncle Shepherd dies. I do so hope that you will go to her. She must need some one to be with her, and I am so glad that Aunt Charlotte isn't there. I know that Uncle Shepherd will want you with him when he dies for you always were his favorite sister. I am glad that Mary is willing to keep house while you are gone, but how very odd it seems. Will Father be at home? or will she keep house for Will alone? I went to Mr. Coming's church yesterday for the first time this year. I liked him better than ever before, but still he is not pleasant at all in my opinion. He preached here in the afternoon, and his sermon was excellent. I should hardly have recognized him as the same man. "Diabolus" is here. The chap who wrote that article about us in the New York Times last summer. I suppose he would be better known to you as "Lafayette Howard-" If I was Dr. Raymond I would not acknowledge him as my nephew. He was in our Geology class this morning and I suppose will write all about it in that contemptible paper. The snow is all melting away. I hope that we shall have no more. I am anxious for spring to come. Mr. Manning lectured for us last Friday, on "Samuel Adams." It was very good indeed, and gave us a great deal of information concerning that estimable man. He closed with an account of his opinion regarding Mr. Andrew Johnson. I think it did us a great deal of good although it roused the wrath of sundry young females. Dr. Lord is going to lecture for us on a historical subject. Emerson will lecture sometime. I don't know when - Anna Dickinson lectured on "Something to do." In the course of her lecture she complimented Miss Mitchell very highly. I am so sorry she couldn't come out here. Gough is coming in the spring. Helen has been indulging in a semi neuralgic, toothache, eyeache, disease, which consists principally of groans and poultices. She has taken to her lounge this day, and I presume that in a day or two she will be well again - She has been carrying on a series of visits to a dentist's establishment and has smelled vigorously of creosote. She sends word to you that she is in a very critical condition and the doctors' have given her up. She is also dangerous, expressing fierce desires to hurt some one. I think she has really suffered a good deal, but you know that it's orthodox for our family to be groaning - I do hope that you will go to Uncle Shepherd's. I am very anxious to hear from him, and you - Helen says that it is mean of me to make fun of her, and I suppose it was - I know that you have been thinking especially of our dear little baby, now that her birthday has come again. I wish that I was at home to talk with you about her. It seems to me as if Sarah's baby must be in some way connected with ours. I am so very thankful that she is so near you and you can see so much of her. Ah Mother dear! although I know how much happier she is than she could be here yet I can hardly help wishing her back again, when I think of you all alone, and we are so far away. But I know that it is far better for us as is, otherwise she would be here - I

hope that you have followed out the plan of which you wrote to Hattie, it is such a pleasant thought, that any one is looking forward to her birthday. I wish I could write longer, and how much I wish that I could see you, and have a long, long talk. It doesn't seem as if we had any visit at all last summer, we had so much to do - But next summer when I am the only one to be started off - won't we have long, nice visits - I must stop and study.

Good bye,  
Your ever loving Mattie -

I must close - Love to all, especially to Sarah. Tell Willie that I will write to him on Wednesday. Good bye -

Your loving daughter - Mattie -