

Vassar College
Feb. 28, 1867

My dear Mother,

We have had a beautiful day today - You know that it is the day of prayer for Colleges and we have kept it in a very pleasant manner. The morning we had a meeting in Chapel, conducted by Rev. Mr. Cookman. He was very happy in his remarks, although not at all so in his personal appearance. He was followed by a Mr. Winselow who related his experience. I didn't like it, for I never like to hear men tell their private history in public. Then Prof. Knapp followed in a beautiful prayer, it was one of the best I ever heard - At two o'clock we had our Greek Testament class, not as a Greek class, but a general Bible class for any who cared to come. The lesson was in Luke the eighteenth chapter, and it was one of the most solemn lessons that I ever listen to. I never heard Prof. Knapp say so much as he did then, and his heart was so entirely in every word that it couldn't fail to do good. Oh Mother! I know that you would like him very much if you could know him; he is the most holy man that I ever knew. I didn't suppose that any one could have so high a spiritual culture, be so near to God always and yet be so little conscious of it - He is certainly a bright and shining light not only in the College, but in all Po'keepsie. Then, to return to the College, at three o'clock we had another meeting in the Chapel, conducted by Mr. Corning. He read the story of St. Paul's conversion, and made some very excellent remarks, referring to the necessity of an aim in life and urging upon all of us to have the best aim, and to start aright. Then Prof. Farrar talked and made a prayer, he did that before Mr. Corning's remarks. After he had finished Mr. Corning called on Prof. Knapp to pray, and then Prof. Tenney talked, a very, very good talk. he is another of those good men whom every one loves. He is not so spiritual as Prof. Knapp, but you can see his goodness shining out all over him. He said that he thought such days were always followed by remarkable demonstrations of God's power. Then Mr. Corning called upon Prof. Knapp who talked as well as we had expected him to. His great theme is always love of Christ, and child like perfect trust in him. Altogether the day has been an almost perfect one. I have never enjoyed any religious services here so much as I have today. And here I have taken up all my letter writing about ourselves, without having asked for any body or said any thing. How is Uncle Shepherd? Does he suffer very much? I am very anxious heard from there and to know just how he is. I have not heard from Carrie for a long time, and I have not written to Sarah but once since her baby was born. It is a perfect shame. I intended to write to her very often but I can't get time to write to any body. Please give a great deal of love to Auntie and the cousins from us all. We all feel the deepest sympathy for them. Is Auntie well again? and how is little Emma? The girls send a great deal of love to you, from Minnie to me. I do want to see you Mother. It doesn't seem as though I could wait - I must say good night now. I wish I could kiss you -

Your loving daughter Mattie -