

Vassar College
Mar. 10, 1867.

My darling Mother,

I can't tell you how rejoiced we all were to hear from you again. All account's of Uncle S. had reported him failing rapidly, and we were very much afraid that he was dead. How joyful it is to have him better! Do the Drs. really consider him out of danger? It hardly seems possible when he has been so very very sick, and with so terrible a disease. I suppose that he will never be able to regain his former health, or is that too considered possible? I am anxious for you to be at home again and fairly rested so that we can hear all about your visit at Rockford, and about the Curtises. You won't be sick will you? That would be so too bad, but after such a seige as you have had I should be a little surprised if you were not sick. I think you will be fully appreciate at home if you ever were appreciated any where. Poor Will seems utterly disconsolate, he says that it seems five years since you left. How is Auntie? I hope she won't be sick again. What a dear little child Emma is to write me a letter, but I do hope that she has no distinct idea of what she intended to say, or that she asked any very important questions. I thought somewhat of learning the Hebrew alphabet in order to descipher it. She is just a little over three years old now. I wish I could see her. Sanie Tenney is just about her age, and a dear little child. I was examined in Botany yesterday, and feel very comfortable now that it is over, but am very tired today. We have to be examined in all the Junior studies which we have taken here. Natural Philosophy, I intend to take next year, as I have my hands full for this year. Prof. Knapp has a new assistant, who has our Greek class. I like him very much, he is very particular indeed. We are commencing Thucydides in Greek, and it's very hard causing very hard study upon our part. We have also commenced the Tusculan Disputations which are as easy as Thucydides is hard. I like it very much indeed. Miss Avery is delightful in Physicology. I know that we shall enjoy the class very much. I don't quite enjoy the bones yet, and can't help shuddering at the thought of taking a hand tomorrow and studying it. I never liked to handle such things, but I suppose that we will outgrow all such follies, and will fit skulls and knock on bones with as much nonchalance as Miss Avery herself, in time. I didn't suppose that Miss A. would be nearly so much at home or so pleasant in the class room as she is. I am growing to like her very much. Dr. Raymond is away, and I have no idea who will preach for us. Dr. Lord preached last Sunday, a very good sermon in some respects but extremely cynical in many respects. I don't like men who regard themselves as social Ishmaels. He has very disagreeable voice, and that makes what he says sound even harsher. I had a very nice letter from Carrie, bemoaning your absence and longing for your return. She seems in a very prosperous state. I haven't written to Sarah yet, & it is disgraceful, but I don't seem to have any time. However I intend to do it this afternoon. Will writes that Kittle Ward's cousin Miss Murray is going to be married to Mr. Williams of Farrand, & Sheley - So J. T. Tilman is dead! How many old citizens have died lately. We are all well except Minnie who has not been very well lately, having a disagreeable combination of cold and headache. Hattie & Minnie send much love. Minnie says "tell her I'm glad she is going home, she will seem nearer-" I must stop and write to little Emma. Good bye, give a great deal of love to all the people, & tell them how glad we are for them. I wish I could kiss you. Good bye again.

Your very loving daughter Mattie -