

Vassar College
Feb. 13, 1868

My dear Mother,

A letter which I received today from Father filled me with perturbation I didn't mean to alarm my home friends by telling them that I was resting from my labors - I am not sick, and expect to get through the year, if not with flying colors, at least comfortably. I certainly have no thought of going home. The reason that Miss Avery told me to rest a week was because it was the week in which the first semester ended, and the second began. There were very few recitations that week, and she thought that it would be a good opportunity for me to rest. I went to all my meals and did what I pleased, but didn't think of arousing sympathy upon false pretences - I am doing famously. Father wants me to write more frequently. I don't quite see how I can. I think I have written home every week of late, and sometimes oftener. I never know when to write to him for he is so much away. Please don't think of me as sick - I am not at all. How much you will miss Mrs. Holmes. I fancied that they had abandoned their New York project, but Hattie's last letter speaks of them as on the eve of departure. If she is still in Detroit, please give my love and good bye to Mrs. Holmes, and tell her how very sorry I am that Detroit and especially our church are obliged to lose her - I am sorry that you didn't see George Gilbert married, because I wanted to hear all about the performance, but I should have dreaded going out there among perfect strangers especially when I knew him so slightly. I am glad however that you had your dresses. What a beautiful brown yours is. Last night Louise, and Achsah, and Sarah Glazier, and I, took tea at Prof. Backus. We had a delightful time. I haven't enjoyed an evening so much since I left home. We went about twenty minutes before six and stayed till nine - The Prof, remarked that, lest we should feel any anxiety regarding chapel, he would tell us that he had had us excused. Wasn't it thoughtful? We didn't see the baby, but heard him. They were trying to put him to bed without the gas, to which he objected sorely - Mrs. Backus is a charming lady, and the Prof, is so bright and full of fun that he makes every one at ease. I think it was very kind of them to invite us. Monday was his birthday - he has attained the age of twenty six years. Sannie's birthday comes next Sunday, he will be four - Tell Hattie that the boy stands forth conspicuous in him, he has almost entirely ceased to be cunning. Scolland lectures here tomorrow night - The Sterlings will come up with him, and I want to see them far more than I do him - They came up with Wendell Phillips, and to the third - They are very pleasant, and were very polite to us - Please give my love and Helen's to all our friends - I am glad that Dr. Ballard liked Prof. Knapp's letter. Tell Hattie to write to Helen next - She hasn't had a letter since I can remember. Tell every body that I am enjoying most respectable health. Many thanks for the papers -

Your loving daughter Mattie S. Warner