

Vassar College, Po'keepsie

Sept. 23rd, 1865

My Dear Father.

It is quite late to commence a letter to you but I thought I would not let the evening go without beginning one at least as I have been thinking all day I would write you. I am enjoying myself as well as it is possible to away from you and Mother and my pleasant home. Mother will doubtless by the time you get this have given you a full account of Vassar College and its vicinity and much better than I could do it by writing. There has been a perfect room full of girls in here nearly all this evening which accounts for my putting off my writing so long. One of our room mates, Nellie Dickson, seems to have a peculiar facility of making acquaintances and I guess does not fail to ask them to call from the amount of company she has. It is not always pleasant for Emma Mary and myself but we hope it will not be so after studies commence. I have not been examined yet but hope I may get through Monday. Mary Cornell and Emma are the only ones of our party who have finished and although they got through very well I judge it is pretty severe and I dread it quite a good deal. We had a Holiday this after-noon and Mary Cornell to-gether with some of the other girls had a game of Croquet but none of us joined as I had mending to do Emma a letter to write and Mary Rhoads £ took a nap. It is almost ten o'clock now and as they wish us to have the gas out by that time I will leave this for tonight. Sunday afternoon. We have just had services in the Chapel and as it is after five o'clock I do not know as I shall have time to finish this before supper but I will try. I do not know yet whether they will allow us to go down to Po'keepsle to church or not but if they do I guess it will not be very often. They are very strict indeed now and have made the rule (they say for the present) that we cannot mail any letters except those directed to our parents but can inclose any we wish so do not be surprised if at any time you receive a letter directed to you but not for you. I hope they will not keep up that rule long for it will be very inconvenient when I write to Auntie. I have heard that another rule Miss Lyman has given is that no one will be allowed to receive calls from gentlemen, excepting their Fathers, without a letter of introduction from their parents to Miss Lyman so if you have occasion to write to Mr. Wilkinson or Mr Bartlett please for my sake send a letter to them for safety if they should call. I have a great many things I should like to tell you but I have not the time and expect I shall have to wait until I get home for many. Please if you see Kate or any of the other girls who speak of my writing tell them I will as soon as possible. I wish some one would write to me for I am so impatient, I have not had one yet and almost all the rest have Mary Rhoads has had a paper too which looked so good. I wish you would send one to me some times and also I should like the Atlantic so much if you think best. We had such a queer dinner to-day. First we had oyster soup and as we all thought we were to have something after it we did not eat much at our table but when they took our dishes away they brought on apples and grapes and that was all we had. The apples were awful hard but they tasted good nevertheless I would give almost anything if I had some apples and pears. I must close now for it is time for supper, and I can hardly write either for there are nine girls in here & they keep up a perfect chatter. Please do write soon for I want to hear from you so much and tell all my other friends to write. Good night now. I will try to write soon again.

With much love to all my friends I am ever your loving daughter

Ella

Remember me to Jennie.

There have three more girls Just come in.