

Vassar College

Oct. 8th 1865

My Dear Mother,

It is very quiet indeed here to-day. I think the most so that it has been since I have been here. It is about twelve o'clock and I expect I shall have to dress for dinner soon, but I have been sitting here by the window and thinking of you all so long that I felt as if I must write a few words at least. The other girls are all in their rooms and I am alone in our parlor. It is a warm pleasant day and so still and peaceful that as I sit here by the open window I cannot help wishing Ah that I had the wings of a dove that I might fly-home. I imagine my pleasant Sunday School and wonder if any one thinks of the one whose vacant place is there.

I see, in my thoughts, as the good people wend their way through our pleasant park and long to be with them And how long I linger over the home scene, the pleasant chat with you and Father, but alas! I am aroused by some voice some sound which reminds me I am still at Vassar. We are usually to have a Bible class Sunday morning after Chapel service but two of the Professors wished to go down to Po*keepsie this morn, to church so our class is put off until this evening. I suppose we shall have services this after-noon in the Chapel at half past three o'clock and a sermon from Pres. Raymond. I hope he will be more interesting than he has been on the previous Sundays. I commenced a letter to Kate last evening but did not finish it on account of a, to us, great event. Namely, Emma and I received a large box of grapes from H.V.B. Ithaca. We were very much surprised & very much delighted. Mary Rhoades Father sent her a large basket full several days ago which were not all gone but ours were none the less acceptable. Anything in the way of eatables tastes so good here. I suppose because it comes from home for we are not starved though we do not have fruit. Ours did not come quite as nicely as Mary's I think because a basket is better than a box. Oh how we have feasted last evening and to-day, we owe many thanks to our kind and thoughtful friend for such an acceptable present. I have not seen Mr Bartlett yet and I think it is too bad for I expected to see him before this. They are very strict about visitors not even allowing brothers and sisters admittance without a letter of introduction from their parents. I have not been to the city

since you left. We are only allowed to go with teachers and only three or four girls for a teacher and as hardly ever more than two or three teachers go and very seldom the consequence is we get to Po'keepsie very few times. However I have had no very particular desire to go. We had the best dinner yesterday we have had yet. Only think of it we had three courses. It has been the principal theme of conversation among all the girls ever since & I have heard several say they must write home immediatly all about it. So you see I am following the prevailing style and writing of it to you. First we had soupe. We usually have that about twice a week but never any-thing but desert after it. But yesterday we had either roast beef or lamb with sweet potatoes etc. and to crown the whole mince pie* We did not know what was going to happen but perhaps we shall make up for it to day by a cold dinner as we had last Sunday. I miss our waffles for breakfast or the cookies at tea time the most of anything I think. If you have not sent my list when you get this please copy it before you send it to me. I dont know whether I told you or not. We have had a sermon from Pres. Raymond 50 minutes long, only think of it and prayers

to correspond. I must say it is slightly tiresome especially when you have to give an account of it to your teacher next morning. I cannot tell you about my studies yet but hope to be able to soon. Give my love to all my friends and write soon. I wish if you have not sent my suit when you get this I wish you would send me some note paper or rather. Father, for dos'ent he get it cheaper in the office. I dont think of anything more now but perhaps will by morning.

Ella

P.S. If you have not sent my list please add Allie Davis* name though I dont know as I shall write to her.

Your loving

Ella