

Vassar College Poughkeepsie

Oct. 29th 1865

My Dear Mother,

I wrote to Aunt Emily yesterday as you will see from the enclosed and I have left it unsealed that If you wish you may read it and you may find something new in it. I was very much disappointed yesterday that I did not get either a letter or paper from you. I felt more anxious after the letter I got from Louise Beers yesterday morning. She spoke of several things in such a way as only to excite my surprise and enquiry and seemed to take it for granted that I understood and knew all about it. For instance she mentioned the death of Miss Seely's brother and that Miss Seely was quite sick. Which brother was it? The one that had the

Photo. Gallery? and which Miss Seely is sick? She also said that "Arthur Johnson's death was very sudden." that was all she said about it and Mary and I are very anxious to know which Arthur J. it was and what was the matter with him. She also spoke of several who were injured at the time of the rail-road accident and if it had not been for a letter which Mary received from Flora Dowe saying there had been a rail-road accident I should not have known what she had reference to. As it is we have not heard the particulars at all and are very anxious for information. Our friends do not seem to understand that we are perfectly shut up here and do not see even a New York paper so that we depend wholly on you, and never be afraid of giving full details because you think some one else may have written about it. I shall be sure always to find something new. We girls have talked some of clubbing together and subscribing for a N.Y. paper. We do want to know so much what is going on in the world outside. What do you think of it? Louise said you were away the day she wrote, attending the wedding of Emma Davis. Dont fail to tell me all about it please. Mary Cornell told me yesterday that she had heard through a letter that Allie Davis was quite sick with the fever. I am quite impatient to hear if she is much sick. You see now I have given you subject matter for quite a large part of your next letter so dont forget to satisfy me. We are having lovely weather here yet. Mild and pleasant but I do not have the time to enjoy it that I did at first for my studies take up nearly all my time now. I expect to commence my German this week as the class has been organized but where I am to find time to study it I hardly see now. I am afraid my Geology and Zoology are going to take up more time than I expected but I dont think I would give either of them up for anything. In the latter part of the after-noon yesterday Emma Colby came in to see Emma fe I about the Geology and Zoology lessons which we all agreed were very hard and we thought it could not be that Prof. Tenney wished us to learn it all so we decided to go and make him a call at his "house" and ask him about it. So we succeeded in finding our way to his quarters. which are on the same floor as our rooms. Mrs Tenney came to the door, at our knocking and admitted us Into a very pleasant parlor furnished with easy chairs and a nice lounge all of which were of course as great wonders to our unaccustomed eyes. Mr Tenney was engaged in preparing a book which he intends to publish soon It is a work on Zoology. He laid aside his work as we came in and as It was almost

dusk said he hoped we would not think he was setting us an example in working so late, he then explained to us what he wished us to commit in the lessons so that they will be much easier to learn. Then he and Mrs Tenney urged us to sit down and stay with them a while so we were soon enjoying the luxury of easy seats and a pleasanter half hour I have hardly ever passed. I sat near Mrs

Tenney and talked almost entirely with her. She was very pleasant indeed. She said she thought this a very nice place for scholars and Professors but for Prof's wives it was rather lonesome. I told her she must come and see me and she promised to do so. She has one little girl about eight years old and a little boy 20 months old. He was the smartest little fellow I most ever saw and they both seemed very fond of him as of course they would be. He could tell the names of all the animals his Father showed him and as the Prof, said had got just about as far as we have in the class. That is to say, the names of orders, classes, etc. They seemed quite anxious to have us come again and I shall love to do so most dearly for It seemed the most like home of any place I had been In since I left my own. I did not Intend to write so much when I commenced for I do not think you deserve a very long letter as I have not heard from you since the first of last week but I have been led on from one subject to another. I must stop now in order to dress for dinner. I hope X shall have a good long letter from you soon and dont Father have any time to write. I love to hear from him so much. I told Louise to tell you about sending my Besique cards. We all want them so much you cannot send them by Mrs Rhoades cannot you send the box by post. Mrs Rhoades sent Mary a book which only cost twelve cents. I do wish you could come here Thanksgiving we would have such a nice time. Give my love to all enquiring friends and believe me ever

Your loving daughter
Ellen