

Vassar College Poughkeepsle

Nov. 1st 1865

Dear Father & Mother,

It Is almost nine o'clock and alter studying hard all this evening It looks rather formidable to commence a letter on such a large sheet of paper but It Is the first I took up and I Intend to write as fast as possible so If you find lots of mistakes please made allowances. It will not be any great wonder If you find German letters or words before you finish this, for I am at present In the delightful (?) maae of that outlandish language. But I dont need to speak In that way of It for I really think after I get well started I shall like It. Today is the secoad time we have recited and Nellie and I have been trying to get our lesson this evening and have been laughing too I assure you at the various sounds we produced We have quite a large class and recite to

Mme. Sparton. She Is the queerest old thing you ever saw and I would describe her if it were possible but I can only wait until I get home and then perhaps I can give you some Idea of what she Is like. Suffice it to say at present that she has only been In this country a few months and of course Is rather queer She told one of the girls the other day to "extinguish" the black-board. I don't know how I shall like her In German but I guess pretty well after I get accostomed to her. I have to study pretty hard now but hope to get along with what I have taken. Mother wanted to know In one of her letters I believe which of my studies I liked best but I can hardly say I like them all so much. I like Geology It Zoology very much hut I dont know that I like them much better than Rhetoric for Professor Buckum makes that so pleasant and Emma Ik Nellie are both in that class. Nellie is the only one out of our room in the German as Emma has

decided not to take it. I received a splendid long letter of ten pages to-day from Kate. I was perfectly delighted for she told me all about the wedding and every so much else I wanted to know. Tell her I will try and answer it soon. I also received your letters yesterday. I was very much pleased for I was expecting to hear from you. The Photos, were very acceptable. I am expecting my Atlantic tomorrow, it will seem so good to get It. Mary had a letter from her Mother a few days ago and I believe she is not to send her dress as soon as she expected. I think Mother if I had a

piece of black velvet I could put It over the crown of my jockey and It would look much better. As Nellie Dickson has fixed hers in that way and many wear black velvet ones. I think then I could wear it until I come home In the Holidays. It would look better III had a plume for It I suppose Emma I believe thinks of fixing hers some way with black ones. Please write soon and tell me what you think best and send anything you may think best. I believe you wished to know whether we have good living. It is excellent. Ol the best quality, well cooked and all we can eat and more, often than we ought to. We usually have beef-steak or lamb-chops etc. with potatoes, brown and white bread and very often corn-bread which is always excellent. We always have coffey for breakfast. For dinner to-day we did not have as much as usual. We had reas\* be soupe, roast beef, boiled potatoes, hominy with bread etc.' We did not have any desert but we almost always do. The warning bell has just rung and I must prepare for bed. So good night.-- I am already for bed and while waiting for the last bell to ring will add a few more words. About supper. We have brown and white bread and every once in a while nice biscuits like those we used to have

occasionally at the Clinton House, not soda. You need not be afraid we will suffer from poor living The only trouble the girls are beginning to complain that they are getting too fat. We had ice-cream for dinner last Sunday and as much as we could eat It is the third time. There Is the last bell. — It is about six o'clock and all the girls are up (in this room) in order to study. We have had one of the girls in another room who always rises early come and wake us at five every morning this week. Was not the accident on the steamer St. John terrible I did not hear of it until Tuesday night. See what the effect of not having papers is. I was delighted to hear about my room and especially that you have that cunning little stove. I think it will be very nice. I was surprised to hear you do not expect to keep Jennie but I hope you will succeed in finding another to suit you. I must stop writing now for I have a hard Zoology lesson to learn. We recite to-day and he is to lecture again to-morrow. Please write as often as possible and tell me all you are doing. I wish I could be with you to read that work by the Schonjfborg Gatter Family. You must write me how you like it. Give my love to all my friends and believe

Ever your loving daughter  
Ellen.

There is a Miss Butler here, a relation of the Butlers and Conrads in Ithaca.