

Vassar College Poughkeepsie

Nov. 8th 1865.

My Dear Parents\*

I am so sleepy and tired to-night that I dont know whether I can write a decent letter to-night or not but I have quite a good many things to say so will try and keep my eyes open a while. Perhaps you will say I am generally sleepy or tired when I commence letters to you as I believe I have made it an excuse before but you will accept it I think to-night when I tell you that X got up this morning at half past five and have been studying nearly all the time since, except when reciting. I was very much delighted yesterday on receiving your letters 4th & 5th and also the Atlantic. I was hardly expecting to get any letter as I received Mothers of the 3rd Monday and I was afraid she would not write again so soon. I dont know when X have enjoyed a letter more than Father's. I am ever so much obliged for all the little particulars which were very pleasing. I am very much obliged for that poetry and it came very opportunely for we have Just got to Poetry in Rhetoric and after the class I took it to Prof. Buckum and let him read it. After he had finished it he asked if that was my Fathers writing and gave it quite a compliment. One of the girls in the Rhetoric class has it now to copy and it is promised to another afterwards so you can see how much it is appreciated. I must not forget to tell you that I took my first lesson in Drawing to day. I think I am going to like it more than I ever did if possible, the only trouble I cannot give half the time to It I should like to. The Studio is so pleasant and the pictures and statues so fine I should like to draw all the time I believe. We are to take lessons three times a week and for about an hour and we are at liberty to draw at any other time when we please. My period is from 9 until 10 in the morning. I think I shall like Mr. Van Ingen very much and he has so few scholars in each period that he can pay each of us quite a good deal of attention. He is a foreigner of some kind I think. He allows me to go right on from where I was, (I showed him one of my drawing which he said was very well done) and I am now drawing quite a large picture of the Goddess of Liberty. I like it very much. I had nearly all the things that were necessary of course but I find the most need of a knife. You know I spoke of it when you was here but I suppose you have forgotten to send it. I have often wanted one at odd times but when I could do without it and so have never thought to write about it but now I need one every time I take a lesson. I wish you could get this in time to send one of mine by Mary's things. Will it be best to get one or borrow of one of the girls until Christmas? I am getting so I like German very well and think in time I may prefer it to French. I had a call yesterday from one of our relations in Po'keepsie. DeLand I guess. Was'ent it? or something like that. She spoke of an Annie Stoddard living with them whom I should come and see. She came up to see Prof. Farrar about getting a situation here but as efce he was out at first she asked for me. I was quite well pleased with her and she gave me a very cordial invitation for\* to come and see them. I have not had much time yet to read the Atlantic but have found it interesting so far. They expect to start a news room here in a few weeks I hear so there will be no necessity of our taking a dally paper but I should like it very much if you would take the Independent and send it to me now. I trust you will excuse me if I do not write more I should have hardly had time for this much had it not been that we have a lecture in Geology tomorrow and an easy French lesson. Emily and I have changed our bed-room around a little and I will draw a little plan below that perhaps you can judge from. Nellie Mary and Emily all wish to be remembered.

Give my love to all my friends and please write often and as much as possible.

With much love

Your affectionate daughter

Ellen

(How are you German)

These are not the right proportions

The parlor is 12 by 15 our room 8 by

13 I think