

Vassar College

Po'keepsie Nov. 29th 1865.

My Dear Mother,

I received your letter of the 26th yesterday and your last one this mom. I was very much pleased for I hardly knew whether to expect an answer so soon. I am glad you and Father agree with me in thinking I had better leave off my German. I recited my last lesson this forenoon and then went to the President to procure my permit to leave the class. He seemed very willing and said something about thinking I had quite a list without the German. I really feel quite sorry to leave the class for I like the language very much and Mme. seems very sorry to have me leave. I do not have as much time now as I have had as we have evening chapel service again which is over half an hour long and breaks up the evening chapel service again which is over half an hour long and breaks up the evening so that I do not find nearly as much time to study.---- Only think Mother Just three weeks from to-night I may be on my way home; it hardly seems possible that the time is so near and yet I am very distinctly reminded of it every night by a piece of paper, which we have pinned on the door, and from which we scratch out one of the marks & then count up to see how many more days we have to stay. However this all "between us" at present. How I wish I could be home to-night for in some way I do not know how, I have caught a cold and my head is so sore from the effects of it that I can hardly turn it. But that will all be over soon undoubtedly without the soothing effects of home. Our arrangements about coming home are beginning to look very nicely. Miss Sayles thinks we can leave here Wednesday after noon and connect with a train at Newberg and another at Chester and then get home Thursday morning. Will it not be nice if we can. There will be quite a party for besides our own party and Miss Sayles there are three other girls who live in Elmira who are going home and another who is in this corridor and whom I know quite well who lives in the northern part of Penn. and will go our way\* There may be others whom I have not heard of yet. And now before It is too late I must speak about my dress. I think the light green, corded, is very pretty but I agree with you that is is not what I need here. I think the striped might be pretty for some but I do not like It. I have thought the matter over as you advised and have consulted with several of the girls and I have come to the conclusion that a black silk will do me more good than anything else. I can get. I should want a lusterless silk I think and corded, rep - or anything of that kind you would think best. How does this strike your fancy? I should want it trimmed in some pretty ways to make it look young but that need not be decided on I suppose until I get home\* -- It is almost breakfast time so I shall have to hurry in order to send this. The retiring bell rang last night so we had to put out the light and undressed in the dark (a rather common occurrence with us.) I am glad Mother you are going to have the sleeves to your dress made full for no matter what the dress-makers say there I know that full sleeves plaited in at the top are as fashionable If not more so than the small ones. You know Ithaca Is proverbial for being always behind in the fashions and this is about as good a place as can be there are so many New Yorkers here. I have lost in the wash last week one of my tinder sleeves\* The plain pair that you made last

you know, so perhaps you had better be prepared to make or let me make another when I get home to match the odd one left. I am sitting at the French table now. Emma Colby and I are there from our table. I don't mind the talking at all but It is not pleasant to be away from my own table to which I have become accustomed and I shall be glad to get back again. I agree with you on the subject of writing to

Aunt Eliza. I have been thinking of it ever since I have been here, and I am going to try & find time this week you know I will have more time now. You remember I had her name on my list. But we do not have to have list after all but can write to whom we please. The breakfast bell has rung so good bye. Write soon With love to Father and I hope he will try and find time to write.

Ella