

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie N.Y.

Poughkeepsie

April 17/92.

My dear Nettie,

I am so glad that you have really decided to come to college. I Just wish I could hug you right now. I know you will never regret for one instant your decision. It is the dearest place on earth to me, next to my home.

Now if there is any way in which I can help you, please let me know. I understand that you decided some time ago but I knew nothing of it until the other day when I met Miss Crandall in the corridor and asked her if you were coming. I have been on the point of writing to you for some time and now I do hope you will ask of me all the questions you wish for I shall be more than glad to answer them. How I wish Lucy was coming too but we must have her come next year to visit us.

Will Clark's cousin told me the other day that she expected him to come up for Founder's. I hope he will. It would be such fun to see some one from Saginaw.

Nettie, we have reason to be proud of our state here for there are twenty Michigan girls at college. They are all nice ones too. Two graduate with honors this year. Have you thought about rooming at all? I do not wish to meddle with your arrangements but let me give you one or two points. If possible room with girls of your own class. Than your interests will be one and class feeling is very strong here. I can speak from experience. I have roomed with two lovely girls this year but they are not in my class and so I know what I am talking about. By the way, my room mates expect now to visit me in Sept. and all go back to college together in the Fall. Won't it be fun? We will have such a jolly party, Lila, Estelle, Marcia, you and I besides all the Detroit girls and other Michigan girls. It la a good thing to have your room arranged for before you come because if you do not, you will have to come on early and hang around during the days of entrance examinations and see all the weeping girls that don't pass, which is not pleasant. Is your mother coming on with you? Mama came

me and I would come alone if I were doing it over again for the first few^ days are all hurry and worry and the rooms are not arranged and Mama, I know did not get any satisfaction out of it. It is much nicer to have your mother here, say along in October or in June when all the college is in working order and the grounds are so beautiful and when the teachers can meet her, for at the examinations they are very much rushed, and can talk only business. Now, my dear, remember that all these are only suggestions and I hope you will not think that I am laying out a certain way for you to

walk in. The reason I speak of it all is be cause, if I had known before, what I know now, I would have done differently.

Perhaps mama or some one else has told you that last month our Glee Club went down to New York to sing in a beautiful concert. It was great fun and I was invited to stay with Miss Grace Sanders a lovely '90 girl that I knew slightly. She was president of "Phil." the first year I was here and introduced Chauncey Depew at the "Philaethean Day" Reception. You will see presently why I am going into details about her and her family— Our Chaperone was entertained at the Sanders also. Miss Grace took me right into her room with her and treated me so nicely that I fell completely In love with her, as everybody does. When we went to the concert Mrs. Sanders came up to me and said Grace and Mr. Gould—, her escort who, by the way I was interested in on account of his name, I learned afterwards from the small sister

that he was Jay Gould's son—would wait for me to go home with them in their carriage. We had a lovely in supper in the back parlor after we got home and altogether my little stay at the Sanders was very pleasant. Now for my point. Mame Sanders a younger sister of Grace's is coming to join '96 next year so of course she was interested in every thing about the college. She is a dear little girl and I hope you will like her very much. She told me of a Miss Joslin who was coming next year. Now it occurred to me that perhaps you three would make a good parlor. You take your chances on room mates first year any way and I should think you would prefer girls that you know to be nice- I wrote to Grace Saturday and merely mentioned in my letter that a friend of mine was coming next year to join '96 and that I hoped Mame would like her. Of course I said nothing about rooms and will not until I hear from you. Mame will come to college under very kind auspices as her sister was a very great favorite with teachers and students, and then she has relatives in Poughkeepsie and lives in New York, all very desirable things in a roommate for it makes a great deal of difference how a girl gets started here. This is a very democratic place, money, dress etc. make no impression only true worth and goodness but it is much pleasanter to have had friends here who left behind a good name. Mame and Grace are both coming up in June, the former to take some examinations, the latter to attend a class reunion so that [I?] will see them then. I hear from Grace nearly every week so that If you want me to do any thing for you I shall be glad to. I shall say nothing of course until I hear from you. If you favor my suggestions about Mame send on your latest and best picture of yourself. I have one but it is not a flattering likeness. Remember this is all between you and me Mame may have made her pleas but I doubt it.

I am writing in bed as I am a little under the weather to-day so pardon the scribbling and write me soon for I shall be anxious to hear from you
Love to your mother and Lucy
Harriet Wood. April seventeenth