

Sunday Afternoon.

Feb. 1873.

Dear Father,—

I wrote you a short note the other day, and on the outside I asked you to send me "Books and Reading"—but If you have not already done so there is no need to—at Flagler, the bookseller, will send me one tomorrow. At present, I am reading a copy belonging to Fannie Shouse, the girl with the gray eyes, who came up on the steamer with us, and whom you thought so pretty. She is in Mary Marvin's parlor. Do you know a Harrisburg gentleman, Mr. Wierman? He is a R.R. man and his daughter, Sue is Mary's roommate. She is exceedingly nice. All these girls are on Miss Liggett's corridor, and they see a good deal of each other. Miss Liggett thinks more of Mary than of any girl in College—so she says. I passed all the examinations in Latin, Algebra and French so am comparatively easy. The public examinations were last Thursday and Friday - but had nothing to do with our marks—The marks and standing depend entirely on the last three weeks' reviews. With a dozen or so of others I have written to the Prex for Freshman Algebra and If we get that next semester, I can get into '76 next year by some extra study next summer on Freshman Latin and Geometry - either then or next year. I shall be sorry to leave our present class (supposing all this works properly) for it is becoming very interesting now to me through the Exoteric Society. In our class I am, without self-praise (you [are] speedily get rid of that here) of some account and in '76 I would only be an Item. But like years is a long time, even at Vassar, where "tempus fugit" so rapidly - and if possible I will only make it four.

Now this will delight you I'm sure.—Unless something unforeseen occurs, I do not care to leave here until I graduate. I believe already some change for the better is effected, Papa, for as so many in different circumstances I see how much there is to be thankful for, placed as I am and can now appreciate things that I used to regard as only natural and proper.

Yesterday I went to town with Miss Liggett, by chance I bought three books, Taine's 'Notes on England', 1 VOL Franck's—f "Essay on Great Subjects", Younge's— "Three Centuries of Modern History." I do not expect to doze myself according to the prescription in Mr. Porter's delightful book - for I know that "it is both vexatious and unprofitable to stand upon one's toes and strains one's self. In efforts to reach fruit you are not tall enough to gather. It is better to leave it until one grows. Then the grapes are both ripe and within easy reach for you, it is safe to conclude they are not sour." So I shall try to "satisfy one's wants and appease one's desires, and so comply with the first condition to reading with interest and a long time ago profit." I confess that when I first thought of a library, it was more for the show than any thing else—and here comes in another of President Porter's pertinent remarks—but I must turn to the book for the words—"they would answer the purpose just as well if wrought from solid wood, fit books for the wooden head that owned them." However I will stand up for myself and the college to say that Blockheads and Vassarites are not quite synonymous.

There is a new girl in our single room Miss Cutter from Cold Water— Michigan, Dr. Cutter's daughter. She is right nice. Has not passed her examinations tho'. She has a letter to Mary Marvin and as I write this Mary has come in to see her.

On account of books etc. the money you sent me is nearly gone. My watch is useless now. I have had it mended and repaired, repaired and mended all to no profit. I miss it very much.

With very much love to all I am

Your loving daughter
Mary Thaw.