

[May 11, 1912]

101 Main Hall, Vassar
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Dearest Mother -

You must have received my letters about Tree Ceremonies and room-drawing, although you haven't said a word about them in your letters! I'm mighty, mighty, pleased about the rooming proposition next year - I do wish you'd [sic] could come up soon before college closes and set the situation. I hate to keep asking for further funds; but here's the case. The Senior class disposes of its furniture just about now, and we can get good bargains in that time. Next year we'll have three rooms to furnish instead of each single as now -

and naturally we'll need more furniture! We each have things that can in someparetieres cases be used, for instance, Florence has some beautiful brown curtains that we're going to use for portieres (our sitting-room is to be brown) and my rugs will be fine for the bed-rooms; also she has a wicker tea table and chairs, etc. We expect, of course, to "divvy up" on whatever we get new, but we can be much more economical this time of year than next fall. I am destitute for shoes, but I think I can get along till June. I bought some canvas rubber-extension-soled tennis

shoes (white) for \$1.50 - and can wear those around for every-day in addition to my pumps. What I need is a dress-slipper to wear with my light dresses, but if I get some more white stockings as I expect this p.m. I can wear my white

pumps all right. The Vassarian our year-book, came out Tuesday and that was \$1.50, and as I had \$1 stolen, the check that you sent so opportunely didn't last very long. It's fierce the way money disappears on this corridor. Ted had \$5.00 taken and Grace Horney had \$10.00. Hers was in her

shopping-bag in her bureau drawer (which was locked, tho' the key was on the bureau). What do you think of that? We blame the confounded greece-born foreigners that they have for maids in this place though of course we aren't sure they're to blame.

I've first been tearing around conforming to V.C's red tape as usual to get permission to make up work. Miss McCaleb said that I could take 6 hrs. work in French during the summer and she thought it would be easier than 3 hrs. French and 3 hrs. of some other subject (3hrs. of a

subject means that quantity corresponding to three recitations per week for an entire semester) I think myself that might be easier; so anyway I had to scramble around last Tuesday and find the head of the French department, Professor Bracq; tell him the situation and get his opinion. He said that he'd talk to Miss Courow (my former French Teacher) and if she thought it all right would make out a list of

books, etc. for me to study. After I had seen both him and Mlle. Courow, I had to chase back again to Miss McCaleb, and report. Then I had to write a formal petition to the faculty for permission to effect said substitution. I have just been to Miss McCaleb again to have her approve of the way I presented my

object plea - now Prof Bracq has to sign it, then it has to come before the entire faculty for approbation. However, don't you think it really will be easier to do all French? I do. Miss McCaleb concurs most

heartily with your recommendation to repeat Argumentation - she says the faculty as a whole will like that arrangement much better than the mere substitution. Here's hoping.

We've been having the most wonderful weather (when it hasn't poured). Sunday last a bunch of us took lunches and went across the river on a picnic - my! but we had a good time. It was town-Sunday so there was no chapel and we just reveled in the beautiful out-of-doors-ness. We found all kinds of wild-flowers

(by-the-way, I'm sorry those I sent didn't arrive in better condition. They were exquisite when they left here Friday night.) We found blood-wort, violets, dried-flowers, hepaticas, rock-columbine, etc.etc.

Tomorrow, a big big party of us get up at 5:30 (!!!!x!) breakfast and then take the 6:20 car, the 6:40 ferry and then trolley again to Newpals [sic]. From here to Mohonk, - the most marvelous lake that ever was, - we walk, a little jaunt of 7 or 8 miles.

Miss Cowley, a Math teacher, who is a great walker is going to chaperone us. A party of us intended to walk from Poughkeepsie to N.Y. in June, taking four or five days to do it in, but Miss Cowley is going abroad as soon as college closes, and as she is

about the only available faculty to chaperone such an extended walking-tour, we're afraid we'll have to give up our little plans for we're afraid our pa-rents won't let us try it alone. Would you let me?

Did you know that you haven't yet told me whether or not I could go to Grace Horney's? She's on regular tenter-hooks to know - and I'd kind of like to know myself.

I'm sorry to have to say that I broke my new glasses a couple of days ago, so I sent the remains (one lens was unbroken) to Haustetter and asked him to punch a hole in the right lens so that I could hitch my hair-pin on. The way it happened was this: it was the night the Vassarion came out and there was an unholy mob in the Soap Palace hearing the grand news. Gladys and I dodged under a Palm there in the entrance and as Glad went through first, a branch bobbed back and 'biffed me in the face, knocking my glasses off on to the stone floor.

Have just been down-town to Christ Church, teaching some children Folk Dances - they aren't anywhere anywhere near equal to the "Irish Gilt" - their intellects aren't as developed as they might be along the terpsichorean lines, but they jovially learned that little, "I see you", that the little ones

know - they also know a Maypole Dance and one or two others. I don't attempt to go regularly - just fill in once a month or so when Helen Hall can't go.

Did you know that Marjorie Van Leuwen has announced her engagement to Ira Worthington! What do you think of that - I have my own private opinion, but it wouldn't look well on paper.

Do you remember how badly I felt when my white corduroy dress,

came back from Slosh's! Well, I took it over to the college-laundry and looks just as pretty as it ever did when it was bran-new - needless to say I'm tickled.

Next day.

Gee! I'm mighty peeved. I couldn't go to Mohonk with the girls this morning after all on account of that blooming old Hall Play! I'm a mere musician in it and all I

have to do is walk across the stage once and tinkle-tinkle on my mandolin. And the blow of it is that I've already bought my lunch for the Mohonk excursion - borrowed the quarter to do it with, too. Honestly, I'm so cross I could eat my alarm-clock, drink the ink, or anything else.

B-r-r-r !!11x?*@!!!!!!!

Yesterday Florence and I went over and looked at our new room - of course it's unfinished as yet but we could get the general idea of it. All we need to have, after all, is some low bookcases, a big rocker, window-seat, inside curtains for the bay-window and possibly a center-table if we decide to sell my corner one because it isn't big enough. We're not sure yet about the rugs. I want to get a chiffonier for my bed-room, too. The closets are good-size, although the

bed-rooms aren't what you'd call palatial. The sitting-room from all appearances is going to be grand. We got permission from the

foreman to size the place up and it looks as if it were going to prove very nice.

I can't think just now of any-thing else that I want to tell you right away - unless it's that we actually finished the necktie.

Please, please write to

Muriel.

P.S. I knew I'd forgotten something! I didn't tell you about next Saturday's jaunt. About 18 or so of us have chartered a 4-horse barge to take us on an all-day trip to Millbrook. We'll start at about 8 o'clock, getting there some-where around noon. Glad. Lyall's mother and sister are going to feed us (they live there you know) and then

home at V.C. in time for supper. Won't that be jolly?

Senior Picture Sale came last Saturday, Field Day; that's when snap-shots of all the celebs. are put up in the gym. i.e. snap-shots that anybody has taken and thinks that somebody else might like. I haven't ever taken a single picture of this place, principally because I haven't a camera, so I've ordered quite a bunch - of the campus, of Field Day (1914 got 2nd place again - next to 1912 in rank), of the girls, etc.

Economics is getting tremendously interesting. I've just been reading the "Woman Who Spends" by Richardson. It's great - you'd enjoy it immensely. If I didn't want to get this in the morning's mail I'd quote from it, but I haven't time,

Love,

Muriel

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N.Y.

Mrs. B.O. Tilden

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Brooklyn, N.Y.

[various math equations are written over the front and back of
the envelope]