[Dec. 11, 1912]

203 Josselyn Hall Vassar College Poughkeepsie New York

Mother, dear -

I'm hoping to hear from you on this morning's mail, but nevertheless, I think it's high time I wrote you so I won't wait till after mail-time to write. I do hope when your letter comes it will say "I don't see any reason why you can't go to Chicago for a few days if you want to." I want to go the last three or four days of vacation - say about the 4th of January and come back from Chicago to college - that won't make any break anywhere. Dorothy says we can go to see Sarah Bernhardt and to the Opera and to the Blackstone for tea. Dorothy

says to tell you she has the nicest family that ever was, and I guess they are pretty nice from what people say. Dorothy herself plays the piano very well and her mother used to be an eminent pianist. Dorothy is the girl I told you so much about who has met so many wonderful people - Caruso, Schumann-Heink, and dozens of others. I don't quite know what her mother used to be, but anyway they're 'way up in the musical world. Dorothy has gone to the office so much that she knows every motif and area by heart - she sure sings them when she's tubbing in the a.m. She is in the choir here - though to be sure that isn't much of an

hour of 1:05 in the morning, but it seems the best I can do, unless I wait over all day until the 6:43. I'm not making any reservation, however, for I'm going in the section with Dot. Conway and Dorothy Parker. The trains are jammed, crowded to their utmost capacity now, and there's excess fare charged to insure[sic] prompt arrival as it is, so by going in with them I save Pullman fare, and then I doubt if they charge excess fare between Poughkeepsie and Detroit. In fact, having just looked it up in the time-table, I know I don't get charged excess fare, for it reads "Extra fare is charged on through

argument for musical ability.

Yesterday I went down-town and did a little christmas shopping. I'm nearly wild trying to get things done and bought and keep up my work too. It's no joke to make a poplin kimona every stitch by hand. I don't know yet what I'm going to get for Florence, Norma and Dixie - I reckon I'll get some lace filling and make jabots for them - that's all I can think of. I took my pink dress to Nickse last week and she was to have tried it on for me yesterday, but I didn't get time to go for a fitting. I think I wrote you that I was coming on the 12:20 Fast Mail it arrives at the unearthly

tickets from N.Y. to Chicago, but no excess fare is charged from pts. other than N.Y." How far that is true I don't know, for I know that the Chicago girls are kicking at having to pay \$5.00 excess.

So much for that - we have an awful Philosophy topic due in January - and I'm hustling like mad to get time to do it and have it over with before Christmas. I want to come back conscious-clear and fancy-free.

I haven't written Dr. Maguire yet, but I've never felt so well in my life as now - I'm not tired at all and the shaky trembliness is entirely gone - I'm going to have that prescription

filled to bring out with me - just for luck - if you could but see my blooming cheeks and sparkling eyes, you wouldn't think of worrying about me. But do tell me how Babe is -Now, will you send me a ticket or what? I'm not going to have a Pullman seat as I explained before, so all I need is the ticket from Pokeeps to Detroit. Have class now and must stop -Loads of love -Muriel. POUGHKEEPSIE DEC 11 1 30 PM 1912 N.Y. Mrs. B.O. Tilden The "Gregorian" - 710 Detroit, Mich. High and Park Sts. [stamp] MERRY CHRISTMAS AMERICAN RED CROSS 1912 HAPPY NEW YEAR