

VASSAR FEMALE COLLEGE,
Poughkeepsie, N.T. November 18th 1865.

My dear Mrs. Boynton,

As I have been quite busily engaged in my studies since I came to Vassar College, this is the first opportunity I have had to fulfill the promise I made when I bade you good-bye and it is with pleasure that I now attempt to write to you although I am fearful that my letter may prove uninteresting as I am obliged to write in considerable confusion, and that is something which I cannot now do very well - but think that in the course of a few months I shall become more accustomed to it

and perhaps can then succeed better in writing letters while others are talking than now. I really hope that such may be the case. Saturday is a holiday at Vassar College the same as at other schools - and the young ladies try to improve and enjoy every moment of the time by visiting each other at their different rooms, walking, or writing letters- Quite a number go to Poughkeepsie every Saturday to do shopping. We are two miles from the City, consequently can seldom go excepting on Saturday.

I like the College very much - and think that it is a superior boarding school - nearly every thing that could be done is done for the students. We all like President Raymond very much. He seems so well adapted for the position he occupies here- And so it is in regard to the Professors - They are all superior men There are about thirty five lady teachers in the College. I am acquainted with nearly all. Most of them are very pleasant, and with out doubt all are well educated - for President Raymond

elected the thirty five from two hundred after a strict examination—— I have already become acquainted with a large number of the students here - some I like very much indeed- My parlor-mates are quite pleasant young ladies and we get along very nicely together. I am much better contented than I ever expected to be away from home - especially at a boarding school- On the Sabbath I miss our Bible Class so much - I always think of you then Mrs. Boynton, and often wish that I might spend my Sabbath at home and week days here- I belong to Prof' Tenneys Bible Class in the College. He is quite an interesting teacher - but it seems so different from my class at home. There are about fifty members I should think in the division to which I belong- We are now studying in Isaiah. The class meets immediately after chape services in the morning - at 10'oclock.

We have preaching only once on the Sabbath. The students all attend ^at the Chape President Raymond or Prof. Buckham

preaches - when no Minister from the city comes.- The first Sabbath I spent here I listened to Rev Thomas Beecher- He was very interesting- But one could soon tell that he is a relative of Miss Harriet Beecher Stowe. Once Rev. Mr. Magoon of Albany preached at the Chaple - at another time Rev. Mr Babcock of Poughkeepsie- We have prayer-meeting in the evening - and sometimes the young ladies go into the Chaple and pass the remainder of the evening in singing.. I think it is quite pleasant and almost always attend.

We are in hopes that the College Library will soon be opened. It contains some excellent books. Then we will have something suitable to read on the Sabbath ———

Mother writes that Amelia Enos and Mary Van Alstine has joined your class. Please give my love to all of the girls. I think of them very often.— I should love dearly to receive a letter from you Mrs. Boynton - as soon as you can conveniently write to me — Please direct to Vassar College, Poughkeepsie N.Y. No 69. My love to Mr. Boynton - Louise and Ella - And with very much love to yourself - I am

Respectfully Yours -

Mary A. Coe.

Mary (Coe) Thompson, '65-Feb.'66

308 West End Avenue
New York, N.Y.
October 6, 1915.

Dean of Vassar College.
Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

My dear Miss Caleb:

I enclose the letter, written by Mary A. Coe of [Watertown?] Wisconsin, from Vassar College in 1865 to her pastor's wife and Bible class teacher.

You are welcome to keep it for the college files.

Yours very truly - with best wishes for the anniversary days.

S. Ella Boynton.