

Vassar College.
Nov. 3. 1868.

My dear Father,

I was very glad indeed to get your letter today. I was thinking only a few days ago that you had not written me at all this year, but I think I hear about as much of you as if you did for people don't usually write so much about themselves as others do of them.

This is a beautiful day for election and I expect the result will be equally bright. Prof. Backus will tell us every thing as soon as it can be known. I think myself fortunate in reciting to him for he tells us all about public affairs and

tells us where to find the best information in regard to them. By his advice our class of five have commenced a course of reading in History which he thinks will be as entertaining as the best novelists' writings and be of much more benefit. I find his testimony true in my case having become much interested in the Conquest of Granada by Irving. In honor of election, I suppose, the Steward gave us ice cream for dessert today at dinner. It was the nicest that I have ever eaten and we enjoy our part of the celebration of the day exceedingly. My health continues very good and I do not feel at all inclined to lose my lessons at present as I should be obliged to if I went

to New York as Nell and you both suggest. It would be very pleasant but not advisable now I think.

Thursday P.M. This morning I received a letter from Mrs. Morrill urging me to come immediately to New York, saying that they would be delighted to see me and that I must not delay a moment. She evidently wrote in the full expectation of seeing me soon but I wrote her yesterday that I could not think of leaving here without better reason than I now have. If I should go it would not be to go away from sickness, but merely for pleasure and I will not do any such thing- The girls are doing very nicely - One of the sickest ones wrote two letters this morning. I mean that she was not is one

of the worst cases, and all of them are getting along very well. We have had very bad weather nearly all the time and what girls had not already the seeds of disease when they came, I am convinced, took it through exposure to the sudden changes we have had by not dressing thickly enough. I took a dose of Copp's nectar this morning and it tastes exactly like Pierce's - I would give a fig for choice between them. I wear my very loosest(?) dresses and am careful every way. I can assure you I think that there are no

filthy places about here- Everything is a model of neatness and since the sickness they have had thorough investigations of everything again and again.

Of course I am very proud of what N.H. has done in the election of Grant. A letter from Mr. Ide, written before the result was known predicted the largest majority from Kentucky of all the states (Dem. of course) and Mass. next. Republican.

I am in a great hurry for it is almost time for the last mail to go and I must go to practice in a few moments. Prof. Ritter heard me play my Sonata the other day and he says I am doing just right in my music. I hope to get letters from Lisbon this week and especially from Mother.

Love to all.

Your aff. Mary-

[Mary (Parker) Woodworth, '70]