

Vassar College.
Nov. 21. 1868.

My dearest Father,

You were very kind to write me this week in mother's absence. I should, indeed, have missed her letter exceedingly if it had not been for yours. It seems a long time since I heard a word from her, for her last week's letter was very short. Harry wrote me a few words yesterday which I recd today at noon- I shall write to him and also to dear little Gracie as soon as I get off this "high pressure" system which seems to fall to my lot

just now. My health is better I think. Today I went down to dinner and should have enjoyed it very much if the noise had not disturbed me somewhat. Miss Goodwin - my favorite teacher - took me to her room directly from dinner and gave me some delicious Catawba grapes. I sat down in her easy chair and had a delightful half hour with her. She is from Connecticut, and one of the most highly cultivated women I ever saw. I think every thing of her and she seems to of me, so we have very nice times together. You can't imagine how much I wish I was going

to be at the musical convention at home. If after the 11th of Dec. I get as tired as I have been this week I shall start for home at once and stay till Jan. 6th if you all are willing and think it best, but I have no idea that I shall be. My essay will probably be finished week from tonight. Then the committee will pass judgment on it. if it satisfies them Prof. Backus will then take it to correct and a severe criticism it will get, too, at his hands I am sure. I shall not be sorry for that you may be sure for it will make it all the better of course to be corrected by a discriminating critic-

I think mother ought to write me one very long letter next week or two shorter ones to make up for her past neglect. I expected to go to town today to get what things I want before the 11th, but was not quite strong enough. Isn't it splendid that we are to have four days vacation next week?

I expect to accomplish great things then. I don't think of anything more that I could say concerning myself or any body else-Tell Nell that I am very impatient for a letter from her. Much love to mother and all the brood.

Yr. affec. Mary
Mary (Parker) Woodworth, '70