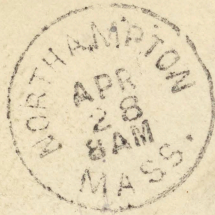


Rec'd Apr. 29th / 84

Ans'd May 13th 0

June 19th 2



Miss Mary E. Garrett

Laurel House

Lakewood

New Jersey

NEW YORK
APR 28
6 48 AM
TRANSIT

M.D.

M. CAREY THOMAS,
317 MADISON AVENUE.

Northampton, Smith Col
BALTIMORE, April 26th, 1887

Dearest Mary,

This printing is merely an invention of mine to save writing my address on business letters, so do not be set shocked by it. I am tired out tonight with much talking. 3 hrs of recitation, careful exam. of Smith Col. buildings with one of teachers, an intolerable woman who wishes a position of a B. Mavor & so is very attentive, a visit to a distant cousin of mine here an introduction to sev. of her college friends, a drive in her phaeton tea at one of the college collages with 25 girls, whom I met & talked to afterwards, after that 3 teachers called & with them attendance upon the Alpha Lit. soc., thereby missing

2
a call from Pres. & Mrs. Seelye. This is
a sample of my days at Vassar, which
was far better & far worse - better in
the sense of the good work done there
& a certain collegiate tradition, worse
because I had not one moment free,
the girls profs. were so kind. I was
delighted with much at Vassar. It
was a sensation to sit opposite Maria
Mitchell at table, or to be in her
study & see her lying on the couch at
full length speaking sarcastic, rather
bitter, wholly loyal things. I felt,
little as personal enthusiasm is in
my line, that I wd. do anything to
show my reverence for her & I
think I shall be guilty of keeping
the tiny bunch of flowers she gave
with what she says is her customary
remark - "A bunch from my garden,
Miss Thomas, my whole garden"

2.

③

I feel very sorry for her. It is doubtless as she says, there is not a man in the country who has worked as hard & done as little. Her affiances have been defective, but love for her makes the whole Sophmore class elect calculus in order to be allowed to come into her mathematical astron. wh. if you knew girls as I do, you wd. ^{en} ^{3m} be able to measure her popularity.

Prof. Braislin too I saw a great deal of & liked. Her calculus was brilliant, but among the men profs. I saw little brilliant teaching, or rather it was very different. Here the same. Perhaps men cannot teach women easily. Vassar seemed to me monastic & charming. I can't express how it impressed me, but unlike anything else I had ever seen.

④
She does so well, she ought to do better.
I stayed there 3 whole days & left with
the kind of admiration for her ~~with~~
I can imagine her graduates feel. The
rules are intolerable. I wish I could
be free for a year, & here at Smith
it is a grand chance wasted. I dislike
to think about it & these 250 girls
getting huses. It is ~~just~~ perh. too soon
to judge & you must not, as of course
you wd not, repeat this, but I cannot
express to you my despair over women,
so clever, so enthusiastic & so little
chance. None of these girls can be
scholars because they are not started
aright, their education is in the hands
of men who do not care. There is
not one strong woman in the place
not even one really well educated
woman. I can't bear to see there!
I cannot write you a nice letter to-
night - it makes me so helplessly

M. CAREY THOMAS,
317 MADISON AVENUE.

BALTIMORE, 188

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foolishly

& consequently so miserably indignant.

If I had B. Mawr in my hands I
wd. soon throng it with students, not
a girl wd. go to Smith, but I am
~~so~~ afraid of getting desperately interest-
ed & then being baffled & after all
I cannot give my life to it & if I did,
afterwards a Pres. Seelye might
step in & undo all. I shall now try
my best, but to be resigned to dis-
appointment is more diffic. I fear,
than I th'd it wd. be when I talked
it over with you so calmly. It is
the curse of belonging to an unfree
race to care for it so foolishly, I
suppose. I am so glad Mary to think
that you will have money some
day. There is so much good to do
& what some of us do with in another

MR. GARRETT THOMAS
311 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK

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way you can do in that way & after
 all ^{it} that is rarer than the other ways. & does not exclude them.
 Good night. I have not told you how
 distressed I was to hear your backache
 & headaches had been worse. I did
 not write at once, because I think I was
 too disappointed, but sometimes people
 of heroic temperaments make mistakes
 & I think it is a false economy to
 wear yr self out as you are doing -
 both for yr father & yr self. You
 ought to take 2 or 3 hrs. of rest &
 entire relaxation for yr self, or else
 you will break down. If, nec. you
 sd. get some one, whose voice will be
 pleasant, to read to Mr. Garrett during
 that time. Please, Mary; it may be
 for a long time. Some decayed gentle-
 woman, or some one. I am so glad
 I ultra can be with you now for a
 little while. How is the chess playing
 progressing. It is not very good for you.

I fear. Yes, my visit seems very far away
& yet it was the longest time I had ever
seen you during how many? - 7 years of
friendship - 7 next Fall. By the way I asked
about Mrs Green & Jd. she is very nice,
cultivated, rich, & able in such lines of
work. The Arthur Stuart house is off
their hands, he & his sister having behereved
well about it in the end. I also investi-
gated that ^{the} "member of church" rule
because the G. W. C. A. had before that
seemed to me one of Mother's interests
in wh. I cd. silently sympathize, its
work being so practical, philanthropic
& women-helping. She had not under-
stood it ^{so}, but I showed her the sentence
I cd. see by her, Mrs Green's, & Mrs
Elder's interpretation that is

only

is meant to exclude catholic influence
in the board of managers; but certainly,
(if they say so also) the wording should
be changed. I am amused by Aunt H's
new stage. She takes now no interest
in religious work, but thinks philanthropic
work the only satisfactory field because
there "the results are solid". ~~But~~ have
It is easy, once removed from such socialistic
& educational problems, to forget that
there is any thing to be done, but I am
afraid, unexpected as it is, this college
tour has opened my eyes to many
things that I shall not forget. If
I can't produce any thing under the
olives I much fear I shall have to
return, ^{altho} English roots, & the Arthurian
legend, & Mythological references in
Anglo-Saxon lit seem rather winding
To be sure there
paths to that ^{my} ends. Perhaps I shall

are more summary measures possible
than in a Greek language. Certainly
I am conscious of a strong impulse to
well to put it barely - to wing the
necks of most of the profs. & teachers in
Smith College. You must, dear Mary,
excuse haste & exasperation & all the
results of 5 days steady conversation
with strangers - I am afraid this is a very
unreadable letter - do not imagine
me always in my war paint. I love
you, and think of you, & wish to see
you often -

Yrs very lovingly

Minnie C. S.

All letters directed to Balto. are
forwarded but I do not wish more than
a note - Please give my regards to
Mr. Garrett, ~~and my regards to them~~
& ~~my~~ remember me to Julia -