

Albany January 15th 1844
No. 66 North Pearl St

My dear Parents,

I can assure that I would not have written so soon again had it not been for my receiving my bill today for this term. I understand they give them out three or four weeks before the term ends, it is 10 dollars, which I will pay out of the money which I have, encroaching on my board money for the next month. I have paid regularly for my board for the two months past, which has been twenty dollars of the thirty you sent by Mr. McElroy. And when he comes if will send me some more money for board, as I take ten of the thirty to pay for my tuition. I have had to purchase quite a number of new books, which have counted up fast, you may wonder, but you will not when I tell you, that although I brought so many books with me, they are not the right ones, being the same name, but not by the same person, for instance instead of "Paley's evidence's of Christianity", they use "Alexander's and instead of Burritt's Astronomy" they use Olmstead's and Guys, and so on, so that you see I might as well not have the old one. There are some books Lib and I use together viz. I use her Algebra and for all Astronomy, and she uses my Chemistry and large Astronomy, and there are one or two others that we use in the same way, but still it is much more convenient to have separate books, as we have the same studies, and are obliged to study at the same time. As regards my expenses I have kept strict account of everything, even to my slate pencils.

Before I forget I will ask you to send my Botany (Mrs. Lincoln's) as we shall have to study it in the spring. I have not commenced taking "music lessons", but think I had better soon, as I have more time now that I shall have by and bye preparing for our "commencement" in July. I do not think it will be necessary for me to take more than one term. As I have a pretty good knowledge of the rules.

When I speak of next July it seems a great while to look forward, but we have been here over two months now, and it hardly seems a week. We have a vacation in May which Lib and I am looking forward to with a great deal of pleasure, as we are thinking there are "certain persons", out west, which will like to have us spend a week with them at that time, and as we have a presentiment that we shall have an invitation. I shall say we shall be most happy to accept, and I am thinking about that time somebody's wardrobe will need replenishment for summer. What do you think? We are as happy here, as we can be away from home. Mrs. McDonald is as kind to us as we could have anyone, and always Sunday evenings she brings us up cake or apples when she is going to bed, a think which she does not do to her other boarders, she laughs and says it is well for us, we are so near her, and I think so myself, you know I always like to go to the cupboards at home, and it really seems like home to have something to eat before you go to bed. I think cupboards in the hall will have a rest for a while, excepting when is peace's disturbed by Pa, and when I get home I will assist him. Give a great deal of love to all the friends, and believe me as ever your affectionate daughter Sarah

P.S. I have nothing of any consequence to fill this out with, and if I should undertake to, it would be anything but sense so, I hope you will pardon me for writing a short letter this time, hoping that I shall soon get a long long one from you in answer for my two. I presume you have long ire this received the "speech" which I sent you. What do you think of the "normal School" we have two of the scholars, boarding with us, I do not think Gov Wright likes it very well. I presume he would not approve of enlightening the people.

I've a great deal of love to Marry Sherrill, and tell her not to let Ella forget me. Give my love to Uncle Williams, and family, and all Uncle Jacob's family, and tell Carrie I am waiting very patiently for an answer to my "newspaper letter." It is now eleven o'clock at night, time for honest people to be a bed and I will follow their example [tear] only say "good night." Please mother send me something for my neck, in the shape of a collar or collarette.