

Houghton Jan. 25. '92

My dear "Betsy":

Yours of the 21st, dated 22nd, came Saty night. I should have written last night, but Dr. W. who re- turned Saty noon, gave me work that kept me busy until midnight. The Dr. came back sooner than he had expected, and left his wife in Chicago, slowly on the mend. She hopes to be here in ten days. We have kept very secret the affairs of the Survey. The letter of resign- ation evidently produced quite an im- pression in official quarters, as was evidenced by the reply from the Geol. Board. To-morrow a rejoinder goes to the Board,

and I have no doubt that body will see its way clear to withdraw the charges it made, and enable the Dr. to resume his duties, and bring the work of the Survey, in part at least, to a successful completion.

Day before yesterday the weather suddenly "softened," and yesterday things looked as if we were to have slush, but the mercury to-night is away down near its old standpoint again - probably near or below zero.

I was glad to hear that you had been among the "Appalachians" again, and enjoyed their meeting. We have little or no amusement of that kind here, the nearest thing to it lately having been "Quers" by local amateurs, which is said to have

been very mediocre. Friday evening I played whist, and propose to celebrate in a similar manner, some night this week, the anniversary of my arrival here. Two of the instructors in the School are engaged, and if hard pushed for events to celebrate in this way, we can observe the birthdays of their sweethearts. When are you going to fix upon the date of your visit here? If I may do so with becoming delicacy, I would suggest that you come before — well, at any rate, soon. The weather in February is apt to be as fine as at any time in the winter. In March it is bad, in April worse, and in May "so so." June, I fear, would be too late for your other arrangements, so I say come now. Am glad you are relieved of the cares that beset

Your domestic life, and hope the three girls will work in harmony, which I rather doubt. I have a number of buttons that are hanging by threads, and if you don't come soon, I shall have to sew them on myself.

Dr. W. takes kindly to the idea of taking shelter under our roof, especially since he has heard that Mr. Sharpless, one of our club-house men, is likely to try his trade out here soon, so that Mrs. W. will not be the only lady among all of us men.

I note what you say about Ch., and shall write her soon. Am very sorry to hear that she forgets the respect she owes her mother. Did you get the "key" to the thermometer puzzle? You might send me the pamphlets. Plenty of room here. Don't give up the idea of coming, for it may have an important bearing on my stay here. Love to all,
including, of course, Elizabeth