

Houghton, Friday evening
Nov. 11. 1892

My dearest Fran:

Your welcome letter of Sunday came duly to hand, and I was thankful to hear of the continued good health of my darlings, and that little "Teddy" Reed was convalescing. I am not one of those that believe all children must sooner or later have all the diseases known as children's diseases and am sure it can not improve one's constitution to be ill repeatedly.

Since I wrote you on Sunday I have been diligently at work at the School. The entering class this year is somewhat larger than that of last year, the instruction in mineralogy more methodical, and they have had a great deal of practice in determinative crystallography when

the last class did not have at all. The School taught considerable new material in this line last summer, and Dr. Patton delivered some lectures on crystallography early in the term. I shall have more work in the sulphides, supplementary to last year's practice, and feel that I shall thus increase my knowledge in an important direction. It is hard to get into the traces again. I always feel tired when night comes, but mean to spend most of my evenings in study until I am master of the situation. My duties as fireman still absorb a good deal of my time and attention. The boiler needs looking after every two or three hours: twice I have gone down to it at 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ A.M., and in spite of my efforts I often meet scowling faces and hear complaints of cold. To-day and yesterday, however, the house has been quite comfortable in spite of increasing wind and

cold outside. Our storm-windows for the north and west sides of the house are nearly ready to be put up, and when the steam pipe is covered with asbestos our heating-problem will be much nearer solution. My room is generally quite comfortable. The curtains add much to its cosiness, and when the easy chair ^{will} shall have come, and the cheville curtains ^{will} shall have been hung I shall feel even less like going out evenings. In fact there is a grand leap year party at the armory to-night, but I am not going. I called on Mrs. Cross and the Sturgises night before last. The little bride seemed quite pleasant, and her husband said two or three times he was very glad to see me back. I fear he will want a more active coöperation on my part, and it may be embarrassing to both of us if I should give my reasons for not promising it. Last Sunday's service was

very "proper," and possibly he may have changed his programme.

Well, what do you think of the election? There must be a great many surprised people in the country - surprised at the magnitude of the victory and rout. I only hope the democrats will profit by their success and not act foolishly, flushed with success. I have great confidence in Mr. Cleveland, and was also much pleased at Russell's reelection.

A letter from Prof. Shaler and a note from Mr. Sicut yesterday informed me that the College did not like the conditions of my gift, so I changed them in accord. with Prof. S's suggestions. I retain merely the right to use any of the material for investigation - which is, after all, quite sufficient.

Have not seen Capt. Verran for a week. Mrs. V. sent Mr. Kidwell and me a big dish of Cornish cream the other day, which was appreciated by the entire table. We've had snow here a number of times, and to night a cold n.w. wind is howling about us. Hope you are faring better. Kiss all my darlings for me, the smallest on the neck, and keep a big one for your dear self.