

Mr. Lloyd's explanation in regard to  
that ~~unpleasant~~ lady at Helen's sister's  
tournament must have been quite funny.  
The Bartlett has had a severe headache  
most in the dark of the remarkable child.

Roxbury, Jan. 19, 1877.

My dear Fanny:

Excuse my using a pencil instead  
of a pen, as it gives me much less fatigue  
in writing. I envy your epistolary celerity  
of execution, which enables you to accom-  
plish so much in so short a time.

I know not whether Frank has  
given you an account of his social party  
at our house on Tuesday evening last, with  
special reference to the visit of the Burn-  
ham sisters (of Philadelphia) to Boston.  
There were about twenty persons present, and  
the occasion seemed to be a pleasant one  
to them all, though the young folks had neither  
music nor dancing. As Frank termed  
it, "It was a success." Ellie very kindly  
assisted Sarah in arranging the table,  
and doing whatever was needful to make  
an inviting entertainment. Your postal

card was received the next morning, stating that you were almost tempted to come or to participate in the festivity; whereupon we regretted that we did not strongly implore you to do so, your presence would have added so much to the general enjoyment. Yet it would really be unreasonable to expect you to undertake such a journey this winter season, leaving the little ones behind, as railroad travelling has been quite unreliable for a month past on account of the snow-storms.

[Lizzie Simmons]  
Wednesday evening had a similar party at her home; and to-morrow (Saturday evening) William and Ellie have invited some forty persons, chiefly with reference to William's 39th birthday on Sunday, and largely of those whose acquaintance was made at Asterville last summer. It will require some tact in managing so large a company; but "where there's a will there's a way," and no doubt it will prove an enjoyable time.

Yesterday I spent an hour very pleasantly with Whittier at Gov. Claflin's, in Walnut Street; and this forenoon I had a long and an agreeable interview with Mrs. Child, at her rooms in Groton Street. Both of them were looking quite well, but Whittier said he was suffering from severe neuralgic pains in the head. It is a pity that he does <sup>not</sup> provide himself with a new set of teeth, as he has lost most of those nature gave him, and there is consequently a falling in of the mouth which makes him look considerably older than he is, and impairs the distinctness of his articulation.

I feel mortified to confess that I have not called upon the Cobbs (who are speedily going to Europe) or the Putnam's since you went to New York. I must try to give them a call to-morrow. Dr. P. made too many calls <sup>upon his parishioners</sup> on New Year's day, broke down, and, as I have not seen him in the street since, is in all probability still confined to his house.

Darling Helen's letter was a surprise and a delight to me, it was so neatly written and so correctly expressed. I hope her troublesome cough has left her. Sarah is confident that a change of air would help her ~~greatly~~ <sup>very much</sup> in this respect; so it would please us greatly if she could be permitted to make us a visit for a short or a long time, as might be thought best.

You invite me to renew my visit to New York; but I think it best to run no risk of exposure which it would involve, as I do not feel strong, and home is the more desirable retreat, aside from the pleasure of being with you and the children.

Sarah has gone this afternoon to Brookline to visit her aunt Philbrick. Everything is so grave and so quiet about the house! I hope you will all come back next summer.

Love and best wishes to Harry.

Your loving Father.