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[Should be Jan. 31.]

Roxbury, Jan. 30, 1879.

My dear Fanny:

We shall be looking for the return of William to-morrow, and from his lips shall learn how you are all getting along, including the dears at the Park.

It is an unspeakable relief to see Agnes convalescent from her late dangerous attack, and able to the out-door fresh air. Of course, she yet shows signs of the ordeal through which she has been called to pass, but every day is adding to her strength. She bore her sufferings with admirable patience and fortitude. Her sweet, gentle spirit and self-control are worthy of marked commendation. All the other grandchildren are in good condition.

Having had nothing special to call me into the city, I have scarcely been out of the house since William went away. Besides, the icy state of the sidewalks everywhere has really made walking not a little hazardous, especially to the old folks; and not a day passes that our papers do not report sundry cases of dislocated and fractured limbs from falling down, and our City Hospital is constantly receiving the unfortunates for prompt surgical treatment.

I have just returned, however, from a parlor lecture on education, by R. W. Emerson, at the residence of Dr. O'Leary, in Chester Square. The double parlors and side room were crowded, mostly with ladies—among them Mrs. E. D. Cheney, Mrs. Porter of Melrose, Mr. Emerson's daughter, Miss Richards (who wished me to give you her regards), Miss Stanton, the daughter of Henry B. and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who is in training for a public reader or speaker,

and many others whom I could not recognize. Among the gentlemen present were Mrs. Alcott, Dr. Bartol, Mr. Sanborn, Col. Higginson, Prof. Morse, &c. The lecture was distinctively Emersonian - unique, discursive, disjointed, and kaleidoscopic, interspersed with wise suggestions and pithy utterances. Yet I could get no very tangible idea as to the drift of it.

I believe I wrote to you that Mrs. Swasey and her children were to leave for New York last Monday; but for some reason they are still detained here, as Ellie has sent Agnes down to say that they are to take tea with her this evening, and that Frank and I must come also. Of course we shall do so.

Last evening Lizzie Simmons, Ellie and Frank went out to the Hewinses at West Roxbury, where they met a large party, and had an enjoyable time - excepting that the supper did not come off till half past 9 o'clock, and they were hungry.

enough, almost to faintness.

It is delightful to hear that my darling Helen is making satisfactory progress with her violin. No doubt she was pleased and astonished at the mastery of the instrument by the famous Wilhelmj.

It is gratifying, too, to be assured that your hair is indicating a positive growth; and I shall rejoice with you when you are able to throw aside your wig.

An affectionate embrace for all the children. Love to Harry.

I have had a letter from Gov. Chamberlain, in regard to the death of his darling little boy. Its tone is very pathetic, and he writes as a "heart-broken" father.

Your loving Father.