

717 Cambridge St.
Harvard University.

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Cambridge, Mass., Nov 15 1891

My Dear Smith, -

I am beginning to feel at home and am in a better frame of mind than when I wrote you last half a year ago about talking you of my work and uncertainties. Of course there is some uncertainty now, and will be until after the mid-year, but I am not going to trouble myself any more about it. "Sufficient unto the day, etc."

Whenever I think of a lecturer's life I think of teachers' meetings, or corrections - whenever you call them. They must be satisfactory to anyone save to damned fools. Perhaps that is a little too strong, though, as our late professor Dr. Stewart, used to say. It may be, only once on a time at New Postland appeared that in the sentences,

"The trees stand thick on the mountain";
the adjective referred to the thickness of
the wood and not to the number of the
trees. I guess he was right, as "thickly"
would be required to express numerical
quantity. He must have thought most
jovially to himself, and felt that had-
pencil done his right check in secret satisfac-
tion of his intellectual prowess over the
untought brains of northern Maine. They
all hooted him but he huddled them out.
He felt upon his immortal head the
crown of individual supremacy and ~~death~~
~~deathless~~ went home and talked it over
with his wife. By the way, do you
know anything of the whereabouts of that
fearful prodigy, Freddy?

I was never able to learn what Giles
thought of me, though I have an impression
that he considered me a hopeless case.
When he caught Estlin and I in the
settle business his heart was well-
nigh broken. It was never for her
matter, and I always feel cheap when

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I think of it. His vivacity, or their vivacities, Walter Swanton and Billy Gray blew on us, and the consequence was that we lost our good character and four dollars. I think we regretted the latter more than the former, at the time, but now I would willingly give as many dollars as I could conveniently master of the whole thing could be forgotten by all parties concerned.

Here is an examination I took yesterday:

— English 9. —

[Spend 40 minutes on I. and twenty on II]

I

1. Give your impressions of any two of S. Smith's essays.
2. What are the characteristics of Jeffery's style?
3. What dates (from 1750 to —) have seemed to you best worth remembering. Give reasons.

II.

4. "Calver Williams" is an attack on "things as they are".
5. What can you say of the origin of the ~~the~~ Great Reviews? [either 4 or 5]

I wrote a steady hour on it but cannot yet tell you how I came out. But I am fairly confident that a bad mark can only result from a failure in expressing myself clearly. In English A. (Comp. & Phil.)

I managed to get a "B", being one of about eighty in a class of 500. Better than I expected, though it does not amount to anything. The course doesn't, for that matter.

Last evening I went into town to see the Russell Comedy Co in the "City Directory". I think it is a little the flattered thing I ever witnessed on any stage. I cannot understand how the Athenians can support such stuff. Cheap farce-comedy is undermining the whole dramatic scheme and God only knows when we shall have a few years to come. Richard Mansfield

Plays "Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde" next Sat. evening & if nothing happens I shall be on hand to see it.

Last Wednesday, Dr Schuman came to see me and I went in to see him in

the evening. Beer, oysters, pipes, cigars, & literary conversation were in order. It was the most thoroughly Bohemian evening I ever passed and one of the most satisfactory. The Doctor "uttered nothing base" during the whole time. I wished you were with us more than once: you would have enjoyed it.

For some reason or other I cannot take any particular interest in Harvard athletics, though I am as much a member of the University as any Senior. And I will say here that there is remarkably little feeling between the students of different grades.

I am on comparatively good terms with a Senior, a Soph and two or three Juniors. They are all alike, and all seem to be fellows of good common-sense. The "first set" we hear so much about is not a military body, but they keep themselves

seriously away from the common herd.

I can finally tell or when I see him,
and he is not much to see either.

The Professors are gentlemen; but when
some upper class man is temporarily promoted
to some petty office like superintendent of exams,
or assistant registrar, then authority is a for-
feiting. They are heartless, however, and I
rather enjoy watching them after I get used to
their ways. I might do the same thing my-
self, unconsciously, should the opportunity pre-
sent itself. But it will not.

There are eight bowling courts in the gym,
and I am quite a friend for that rather
antiquated sport. As to the other applica-
tions I have not touched them. I fear I
am not an enthusiast in the subject of
physical culture, though I am an excellent
subject to experiment^{ed} with. My stooping
shoulders are disfiguring, but I cannot
bring myself to do a regular course of training.
In fact, I cannot find the time.
Expect a letter to-morrow. Yours,
Robinson