

Bartons March 28. 1847

Dear Mother & Sister M.

You have undoubtedly thought strange that I have not written before. for a long time has elapsed since you have heard direct from me, I will now proceed to tell the whole secret. In your letter to Elizabeth a short time since you ask if I have taken wings and flown away. In answer to this I say yes. and at the time that letter was written I was flying ~~of~~ over Europe as fast as rail road cars could carry me - Dont be alarmed - for I am safe in America again - On the 24th of Dec. last just for a little recreation - I sailed for Liverpool with the intention of visiting London and Paris, which object has been accomplished - I have just returned with better health than I have enjoyed for years before having seen much to interest and instruct - I had a rough passage out but not a very long one being 24 days to Liverpool - this place is remarkable for nothing except its magnificent docks, as you are aware that its Commercial business is perhaps second to none in the world - from thence I proceeded to London at the rate of some 40 miles an hour I arrived there the day before the meeting of Parliament, and had the pleasure of seeing one of the most splendid sights ever beheld by mortal eyes I mean so far as it is in the power of man to create splendour - This was on the occasion of the meeting of Parliament when the Queen proceeds from Buckingham Palace to the House of Lords to address ^{Parliament} in person from the throne - I succeeded in getting a good "standee" near the entrance of the Palace, and had a fine view of the Queen Victoria, and Prince Albert also the whole of

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the Royal escort. The Queen looked very much like the portraits we see of her, and is much prettier than I had supposed from hearsay. The horses and entire equipage exceeded anything I had ever imagined to exist. The following day I had a near view of the crown which was deposited in the jewel room of the Tower. This crown which was worn on this occasion cost five millions of dollars - look on this picture and then look on that which shews us starving millions who are subjects of her Majesty. It is truly a painful contrast.

After visiting the principal sights of London I proceeded to Paris by the way of Havre. Like Paris much the spacious grounds planted with magnificent trees in the city, thronged with a people who seem to be intent on enjoyment conspire to make the visitor feel happy in spite of himself. Although I had no intentions of having any thing to say about ether or gas which has made so much noise of late, yet when it was known that I was in Paris I was politely told that I was a great man!! for my name had gone before me. You are aware that Dr Jackson and Morton have been claiming a discovery, which properly it belongs to me. Dr Jackson it seems had sent out letters to Europe claiming the discovery, he therefore was first known there - but soon after an article which was published in the Boston Medical Journal, which gave me the credit of it was republished there - by the way, you cannot conceive what excitement there is in Europe on this subject. indeed it is the topic of the day, and is admitted by all to be the most important discovery of the age, and they are

desireous of knowing, who is the discoverer and it is rumored that whoever substantiates his claim to priority is to receive a pension from the French government. Well after it was known that I was in Paris I was invited to address the various scientific academies upon the subject which I did and not only this, several Gentlemen wearing the Royal Ribbon interested themselves in my behalf and are now electioneering for me with a right good will. I was invited to parties, soirees, balls and dinners constantly for the last 10 days of my residence in Paris; indeed balls and parties embracing the aristocracy of Paris were given in honor of me - in short I was quite a Lion, having horses and equipage second only to that of the King placed at my command. I also had the offer of becoming Dentist to his Majesty Louis Philip King of France - Dr Jackson has influential friends in France also and he will do his best to establish his claim to this discovery although he really has no right in justice to this honor yet it is not impossible but he may outgeneral me. I am now getting my evidence, taking affidavits &c which will go out by the next steamer Mr Bennett Editor of the New York Herald is now in Europe and I see that he has written home a letter which is going the newspaper rounds. he states that I am to return to Europe this Spring. This is the first news I have had of it - for I have no idea of returning - I understand that a petition has been presented to Congress in reference to furnishing this gas to the Army in Mexico and to remunerate the discoverer in the sum of \$100,000 When it was stated that Jackson and Morton were the men, the member (Mr Dixon) from Connecticut rose and stated that Dr Jackson ~~were~~ ~~no~~ and Morton were not the discoverers but this honor belonged to Dr Horace Wells of Connecticut

Congress appointed a committee to enquire into the matter and I have just received a letter from that committee requesting me to furnish them with the evidence of my priority of discovery as they had been informed that it properly belonged to me. as my sheet is full I must close. Please to let Mary see this letter and tell her it is for herself as much as for you. I do not write her ^{a separate letter} for it is impossible for me to surmise where she is at present, as she is about moving. Remember me to all.
Your affec. Son
Peace

Dear Mother,

You will doubtless be surprised at this letter and also think it strange we should be silent on such a voyage, I have wished many times during Horace's absence that you knew about it, but Horace felt it would be so short an absence it would be best to keep it a secret till his return, as he knew you would feel anxious concerning him. He has returned safe and perfectly well, our friends say they hardly know him he is so fleshy. He ~~is~~ ^{has} also become quite a distinguished man and Hartford citizens are quite proud of him, I hear it rumored he will be a rich man, and I am sure he is entitled to it. Your letters have been truly welcome the last one came about the time he arrived, I felt anxious to hear from Capt. Cole and am glad to hear he is recovering. You may expect a small pamphlet concerning the gas which Horace is having printed in a few days. Remember to all and please write soon and congratulate us yours
Elizabeth

Dear Grand Mother I have received your kind letter and in answer would say that I am quite well and hope you are enjoying the same blessing
Charles Wells