

New York.

Rankin
April 10th 81.

My dear Father,

According to
promise I now sit down
to write something of work
here in N.Y., but hardly
know how to begin. The
clinical lectures, which I
have been attending are
numerous, & some of them
very good others very poor;
but this is all that can
be got. Of course I have
spent a good deal of time in
going round to the different
hospitals, seeing something
of them & inquiring into their
various arrangements, & have
learnt thus a great deal in
a general sort of way.

2) but there is no chance
of getting practical work in them
as this is all done by the
house staff officers, who are
appointed periodically by com-
petitive examination. Posts
must be graduates, which
of course I am not. Every
day that passes I see
more & more clearly what
an irreparable mistake
has been made in this regard,
& although there is no use
in crying over spilt milk,
there is no getting over the
fact that I had it, that
it is spilt & that it never
never can be gathered up
again. I see now that I
could not only have got through
but have done so with.

3) credit & probably have taken as higher place than I shall ever be able to again; as I am not going to spend another winter in getting up an examination, & without doing so you inevitably fall below those who do. But this is lost. I feel. As to the future I don't know, I will be able to tell better in a couple of weeks time.

I was glad to hear of Mother's safe arrival. She took all the cold weather, which had been steadily persistent since our arrival, away with her. Since Thursday we have had pleasant & spring like breezes, & plenty of dust. Today it is quite hot. You mention having ordered the witness to be sent but I have received no copies at all. Either they have forgotten all about it, or else it has been going to some wrong address.

I have nothing to tell about New York, that Mother has not already anticipated me in, as I did all my sight seeing with her. Fifth Avenue with its innumerable luxurious carriages, & endless streams of handsomely dressed people is certainly a most wonderful sight & makes one somewhat envious. If one had been brought up here & seen something of the prizes which commercial life has to offer, I very much doubt that anything else would have had any attractions in comparison. Campbell & Ogden have found a comfortable room, as Mother will no doubt have told you, a few streets from here, & take meals for the present with me, although it is rather far to come. They are struggling to do some work as well as the distractions of theatre &c. will allow, & I have been over once or twice to study with them.

Tonight I intend to go over to Brooklyn & hear Beecher. Hoping that you are all well
Your affectionate son
Rankine.