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130 East 23rd New York. Sunday
Mamma

Dearest William

I wrote to Eva
yesterday morning & entrusted it
to Rankine but as he forgot to
mail it until the evening perhaps
it may not arrive sooner than
this, so I shall consider this a
private communication & tell
you something of how R. continues
to feel about his last day's. I hope
time may soften his regrets, but up
to the present time he abandons
himself to fits of despondency that
are almost insupportable. He finds
at every turn here that it would

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have been of immense service
to him here if he had had that
guarantee for his merits & standing.
Probably he might have got
a position in one of the Hospitals
the practice in which, he assures
me, would be more beneficial
to him than years of lectures however
good. He says he cannot lend
his mind to look steadily that will
not form any connected part with
that he must again resume at
the Fall, & he utterly hates the prospect
of returning to grind in the old mill
three next winter. Much else he says,
but these points have grounds of
reason & truth in them. I wish

my present knowledge. I wish
 a thousand times that we had
 not persuaded him against going
 up for his examination. But this is
 against my own principle, "that
 regret for the past is only ~~only~~
 time wasted in the present". He is
 very reticent about his plans here, saying
 he has had enough advice from
 people ignorant of the subject they talk
 about, but I can see that he bitterly
 feels being received, by those he meets
 at the Colleges or Hospitals, as merely a student
 when he is conscious of having fully
 deserved his degree on account both
 of the work he has done & the superiority
 of knowledge he has to scores of the young
 men who have now obtained theirs.

This does put him to a disadvantage

here. The only practical remedy that
 occurs to me is if you could get some
 — the more the better — of our leading
 medical Profs to write privately to as
 many of the Medical men connected
 with the Hospitals here stating something
 of the extent of ground his studies have
 covered & of his diligence & reliability. &
 thus perhaps opening the way for his getting
 what he greatly desires, a place in the N. S. Hospital.

I am thankful that I accompanied
 him here. I think I have been of some
 use in counselling, as at least I have
 been a bent by ^{which some of} his distress has escaped.
 Should all go well at home I would
 like to prolong my stay with him
 until he is more settled in his plans
 & entered upon some occupation.

This morning we attended the service
 at Dr Hall's Church & returned to a meeting

instructive & excellent sermon.
 I thought the course hardly fair
 in raising any child of God, however
 bowed down, into a level high
 above personal disappointments
 & it may have some effect. Meantime
 R. has gone to Brooklyn to visit a
 gentleman to whom he had an in-
 troduction from Prof. Mayse. He
 promised to return to tea & afterwards
 we propose to go to Dr. Armstrong's Church.

No diminution of high cold winds
 & chafeful dust. I sit constantly in
 my bedroom where I can have a fire
 when I choose. It cannot be called quiet
 for 23rd St. is the main highway between the
 East & West carries & the hell of the street
 cease not day nor night. Oh! I become
 dumb it will be by resting if chafed by wear

I don't now wonder at your returning from your visits to the U.S. sailing at Lower Canada. Even the little I have now been seeing I feel tends to lead me in the same direction. Yet here one would be strongly tempted to lust after riches. This may in walking the length of Fifth Avenue such magnificence of dress & Carriages make one feel ashamed to intrude their presence into such Company.

Pray do not speak of R's humours to George or William. I trust he will soon take a higher view of his position. I mean see his disappointment as a trial sent to work out higher good & it is a pity to grieve them. Join me in praying fervently for him that it may be a turning point in his life. For his higher good. Neither of us must fret, only pray & work. I hope to hear from you, that you have succeeded in advancing his interests here. Both benefit the cause. Love Mary, etc.