Dear Laura. Your turn comes now again though I am afraid that I have not much to interest you. In my last letter I mentioned that the Ruggles' had been spending a fortnight here and that your friend Ellen had written to you from Philadelphia Likewise to Miss Bunch from some other place. She was well though as usual looking rather delicate and I fancied that though she had very pleasant recollections of Germany she was very glad to get back to Boston. They returned to enjoy their visit here very much, and we delighted with her voice but she was badly supported. Mr Henry Lunt took part in Faust & Marguerite as Faust & Mephistopheles as Don Juan. They were much off of it. She is said to have naturally a fine round soft character and to sustain admirably in private life. She has been singing here lately but I have not heard her. I have written you a rather long letter full, I fear, of a rather dull account of her voice. There is also a very good Statute of Venus here but it is not supposed to be well supported. I have taken out nieces or three lessons which are there I don't know whether I shall continue them. New York should be paying a good deal you know. Mr Perry is very friendly and I meet with pleasant people at his house. I am trying to teach English to a young German Israelite who learns with astonishing proper pronunciation backwards. One of them is quite good looking for a German lady but not fall-in-love-with-able in the least. I am glad to hear that you are going on with your German, also that Francis is picking up a little with Sander, to whom give my compliments. I suppose he speaks English quite well by this time. You seem to have made quite a number this summer, longer in fact than mine though not in such strange lands, and next summer I suppose

[illegible] western tour that I quite long to make me [illegible] I suppose [illegible] I am afraid I shall not [illegible] wander much more. Today is three days [illegible] morning on the Steamer is in. Mr Whittier has [illegible] he was in Boston only one day and did not get [illegible] and it will be pleasant to [illegible] of Hearing from you in the [illegible] are great festivals in Germany and on last night everybody made everybody else presents. It is a far more genuine matter here. [illegible] is brilliantly lit up and thronged with affectionate papas and doting grandmammas. Last night a stranger walking through [illegible] would almost have fancied that there was an illumination here, for in almost every house there were windows [illegible] and at length bestowed Constitution but not without within the Christmas tree was decked out with light and ribbons and gilded fruits hung by little threads to the boughs, and that round the Christmas tree there were standing as many little [illegible] to them were members in the family, and upon each little table the gifts which each had received were laid out to the best advantage that the visitor might see that no one had been forgotten on Christmas Eve. And from no one of these houses would the visitor's voice mean depart unconsoled - on the contrary the cheek of consolation would of [illegible] itself approximate to an Affliction. I spent the evening at the house of a friend who with his family lives near by and it was a very pleasant evening to me indeed and gave me much insight into the German festivals and their way of keeping them. All the presents were shown to me in procession and their respective merits dwelt upon at great length, the name of the donor being always mentioned. The last I did not get home till half past twelve and I was [illegible] the same dish with which I immediately thereafter left have drawn sundry conclusions respecting the [illegible] qualities of Germans taken [illegible] when accompanied by punch. This letter is to wish you all many Christmas & happy New Year, for though [illegible] will have passed long before you receive this, yet it will tell you that both were wished you at the proper time and in [illegible] soft English here in this far away land across the [illegible] and spattering waters. Write often and do not starve in the [illegible] the [illegible] old home letters of the old market. W.

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