Dear Mother.

Since I last wrote to you I have been working quietly and steadily in the laboratory and have had little or no variation in my daily routine. The laboratory is a good 2 miles up from my lodgings and I am there by 9 every day. At ½ past one I drive (not very well) and then return to the laboratory and remain till 6. In the evenings I alternate languages, chemistry & crystallography. Next month I shall commence taking lessons in fencing though I shall be sadly pressed for time. Since I wrote last I have been to a grand concert here given by a French artist. One of them plays wonderfully on the French horn. He used to put the mouth of the instrument [illegible] and then sound both notes at the same time with perfect distinctness. The astonishment of the German musicians when he first came out was very great. They could not believe their senses. I certainly nothing like it has ever been done before. 2 columns of air must be vibrating in the tube at the same time & independently of each other. The tones are singularly sweet and full. The great favourite here of the public here is a Herr Ludolff who was to be known to you as a composer. His instrument is the piano and he plays as I think at least admirably. I have never heard of the Mrs de Meyer whom you mention. To be a better performer than Sophie Menter is [illegible]. Elsie I suppose will not be wife of whom you receive this. I believe she owes me a letter. I like the idea of Sam marrying Selkamp. I always thought him a fine fellow. You mention Clara Powell's engagement but have not any yet to announce. My enquiring sheltie Savanna has lost her wife as I half inferred from one of your letters some time back. Baring I believe is also engaged. I am glad to hear that Robert is so happy and his wife so much liked. But if matrimony has made a Swedenborgian of Robert I do not know what it cannot do. Does Carson & Leslie write his father or has he a house of his own? He was certainly made for a domestic man and I hope will not be made a Mr Candle of. Ugly ones might to be at least good natured. I am sorry to hear of Dr Hare's illness but I cannot believe that it is owing to flatter which is perhaps the least volatile of all substances. There are constantly in his laboratory gases and vapours which are much more likely to produce ill effects— Laura had better not purchase any books of Radde but let me know what she wants and I will send for both at once. When you write to Boston remember me to all there. I am rather sorry that Dr. Hare is to be by way of Glasgow. When Eliza returns she may also make for such things and I am working with Dr Jackson as he will I fear acquire inaccurate habits. However this is better than nothing. After I believe is now pure of coming out in July and must be looking forward to that time with impatience I shall expect to hear from him in your next. That has not yet answered my extremely military letter. I must close my letter now with love to all. This is a short letter but if I do not close it at once I shall miss the steamer I will try and make the next longer. Your affectionate son W Heath

P.S. Is Remond's chemistry finished yet?

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