You will of course not show this letter to anyone connected with the college. I can rely upon Parker Watts & Sorrey for personal goodwill. Of the others I know little. Gilman I dislike. —

Let me know more about the Smithsonian legacy and how it is to be applied. You speak of Henry's appointment to the secretaryship - is this Henry the parson or Henry the Professor of natural Philosophy - What are his duties? The president's Speech Message appeared in Galignani and I made several ineffectual attempts to read it. Its length is ridiculed everywhere. The steamers bring us the political news quite regularly. We have long been expecting to hear of a great battle, the news of which we postpone to every successive steamer. I expect to find but little change when I return home, your letters and the [illegible] [illegible]. Once in Paris and I shall be quite near you all again. I shall send my books and apparatus home in April and I wish you would write to me in what manner I can direct them - I mean to whose care. I suppose direct to you 12 Wall St New York. I take a few books with me to Paris but no apparatus - I am digging away quietly in the laboratory working upon the bile which is a tough customer and gives no very definite results. I had wished in coming here to do something "for Bunkum" but the Professor gave Whitney and myself this subject to work on and we had no choice but to take it. Whitney goes with me to Paris and will then probably return home. I do not think you would be pleased with him if you were to meet so that I shall not ask him to visit you. We had a weeks vacation at Christmas and I went to Frankfurt to get some necessaries not to be had in Giessen. While at Frankfurt I took a trip to the famous baths of Homburg which are but 2 hours from F. Willis's brother is residing there for the winter and showed us the lions. The town is quite new - at least for the most part - the springs having been discovered but a few years ago. The water is delicious & very highly charged with carbonic acid and tasting like Saratoga water but better and stronger. There is a very extensive gambling establishment here owned by a two Frenchmen twin brothers who have the lease of the springs for 30 years. Even at this season we found the gambling tables crowded - not a few women being present and engaged in playing. It was really a curious sight for an uninterested spectator like myself. & Last winter a Belgian company came out to Homburg to play against the bank. They played with wonderful success until they had won everything but 2 or 3 rouleaux. These they also wanted