Paris May 28th 1847.

Dear Mother

1847

In my last letters I gave you some account of my journey to Paris and of my way of living here. Nothing of very particular interest has happened since I last wrote. The Parnes are still here but leave next week for Geneva where I shall I suppose meet them again in July. I went to Versailles with them last Tuesday & spent a very pleasant day there. The galeries of the palace are so [illegible] are mostly filled with historical pictures many of great merit and with busts and statues of all the great men of France. Old Louis Philippe has in fact made a sort of French Walhalla of the palace and it is certainly a surprising noble monument to the departed worthies of France. The gardens are still laid out and kept in the [illegible] old style, which after all is pleasing enough for a short time, and tritons [illegible] dolphins still keep watch over the granite old fountains and vomit forth occasional jets in honour of royal birthdays and national festivals. On the 1st of May we had a grand celebration of this kings birthday and in the evening an illumination and splendid fireworks. Every thing passed off much more quietly than such things do with us. There was not a fight during the whole day. I have been now to most of the theatres and have seen almost all the most celebrated actors. Mademoiselle Rachel pleased me much although I saw her in a pièce which does not show her powers to advantage as she appears as an old woman. She has though a beauty light hair and eyes and Fred Sheldon says is the image of Dudley Selden's daughter. I find the French a shallow and heartless people, their politeness is all on the outside and they are not particularly clean in their personal habits. Still there is so much to see here and the city itself so beautiful that Paris is a delightful place of residence, somewhat expensive it is true.

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