Boston Nov. 5th 1869

My dear Sir,

If I were not split like an old pen into two halves between my college lectures just begun and fighting a committee of the legislature for my aris et focis — that is to keep the watches from filling up the beautiful estuary of Charles River on which I feast my eyes daily, I should try to answer you in a sprightly vein and by writing three or four pages hope to stumble into some witty or pleasant word that might repay you for your