anything to do with the business. The country must go to the dogs, so far as I am concerned, its own way, or rather the way of those that have the management of it.

I am over here all day at work until five in the afternoon, when I get a dinner at a restaurant & then write at my room in the evening. Now and then I go round to one of the offices quarters for an hour or so, but otherwise pay no visits. I have not been to a levee or seen the President. That difficulty of mine is a good deal better, so that I do not experience any inconvenience, but it must be some time before it is entirely cured. I am trying to get my geological notes all written up, so as to enable me to return to hard work, when I can prepare the Indian papers for publication by the Smithsonian. There is a great accumulation of material since the Gallatin's post work, which I have in fact almost a monopoly of. There are several gentlemen at work here in the Smithsonian on their different specialties, most of whom generally dine at the same place that I do, & there is therefore quite a pleasant scientific society. Professor Baird lives at his own house. His wife is a daughter of old Emmet Churchill the Inspector General of the Army, and a sensible pleasant woman.

I think this is about as disagreeable a place as I ever was in, & for one not fully occupied