

Houghton, Jan. 31. '91

My darling wife:  
Truly "a soft answer turn-  
eth away wrath," and altho' my "wrath" was born  
more of indignation at what I considered unjust  
treatment, and sorrow that she who should love  
and trust me more than anyone else in the  
world, save my mother, should think me capable  
of acts unworthy of a gentleman, still, if you were  
here now I could willingly enfold you in my arms  
and promise to bury the past in forgetfulness.  
My only stipulation would be that you respect me,  
and lovingly and freely say, and feel convinced of it, too,  
that my error was one of judgment. That is all I  
ask in return for my love, and if in moments of  
bitterness of spirit I have encouraged any feelings  
of estrangement on my part, I humbly ask pardon  
of an all-forgiving Father. I hope these few words  
may be speeded to you, and counteract the coldness

of the detailed explanations I was obliged to give in my last.

To-night I moved into my new quarters, a room in the house of the R.R. station-master - a small frame house in one of the back-streets of this God-forsaken hamlet. The hotel, - I believe there is a second one somewhere - is just back of us on the main street, and I shall board there, for a month at least. The "grub" there appears to be better than at the house where Lane and Patten board, and, besides, I am about half a mile nearer the school than they are. To get a good idea of the place, imagine a hill running up from the water very much as that on the west side of Augusta from Water St. up. There is one principal street, running parallel with the water, which is really a narrow lake, about as wide as the Kennebec. This street, <sup>for here</sup> extends about half a mile to the east, and indefinitely to the west. The school is nearly a mile <sup>for here</sup> - west. There is great dearth of boarding accommodations in the town, and already we are agitating the question of buying or building a club-house, where the instructors and members of

Copper Range Historical Society

of the Survey can live, and have something decent to eat. In the neighborhood of the school there are a few modern houses. These have been built since my visit here twenty-seven or twenty-eight years ago, and with one other building are about the only new edifices I can find. There is a small Episcopal church which I shall visit tomorrow. I am told that a number of people encourage it by hiring pews in it, but seldom attend service there. Uncle Henry gave me a letter to one of the nabobs, a Mr. Hubbell, formerly member of Congress, but I have not yet delivered it. Prof. Wadsworth seems very much pleased at my coming, and I contributed much to his pleasure to-day by enrolling myself as a graduate-student, so as to have the privilege of working in the chemical laboratory. This swells the number of students here to 57. Now that the democrats in the legislature are trying to injure the school, every pupil counts. The prospect of reappointment is very good, and the work promises to be very interesting. I have declined any compensation for a month, as it will take me fully that long to

polish the rust off my petrographical armor. We have a nice large room to work in, and are fairly free from interruptions. After the snow shall have disappeared we can make many excursions to the neighboring mines, which are in full blast. This is the richest mining district in the world, I suppose — Houghton with its Copper, and Marquette with its iron. There are also gold and silver mines, but these are relatively unimportant.

I was very sorry to hear of Judge Curtis's death. He did not look very robust, the last time I saw him. Aren't you going north too early? Why don't you wait at least a month longer? I wouldn't run any risk. What a pity this place is so far out of the world! If it were not so, I would ask you to take it in on your way. Tell Ch. not to be discouraged about hearing from me. She will probably have read nearly all (?) of those books, before I can cry halt. Kiss both the dear ones for me, and imagine some bestowing may on your dear self. Kind regards to Miss W.

Ever yours  
L. C.

Direct reply to Houghton, Mich. They did have any city delivery here.