

Houghton, Mich. 12.91

My dear Fan:

To night I find my ink-bottle with about enough ink in it to direct an snail, so I shall indite my messages with a common Bluefaced, and send you greetings before the week gives any older. Your release letter of Saty' came yesterday. That was a very sweet little poem of Emerson's, and I was delighted with it. How often, when I have been alone in the woods, have I done just what E. did; - try to find a pretty thought suggested by the wild nature about me. I fear, tho', I've generally been too lazy to try to clothe them in fitting garb, altho' sometimes that can be done later. But delay is dangerous, I find, and when the inspiration of the woods is absent, my mind is apt to be sluggish. For last year I still have two pretty little pictures, that I mean to dress up some day. One afternoon, after a hard rain, the setting sun shone thro' the boughs of a spruce tree opp. our camp, and

glistened from the thousands of water drops that hung suspended and quivering in the space needles. The outer curves of drops on each bough or tuft of needles were lighted up with the brightest colors, and looked like a halo of glory. Imagine the top of a large tree flaming and flashing forth the prismatic radiance of the sun. Another time, also at sunset, we camped at the upper fall on Cancunguore Stream. You may remember the ledge there. The stream was swollen, and the water below the falls was covered with foam and bubbles. The sun light on the bubbles, that seemed to dance along with the current, gave back the colors of a rainbow, now flashing into view, and then disappearing in the evening shadows that were creeping over the pool.

The bible can safely be had the other day, M. T. I shall try to use it faithfully. How mean not to send the candy! Do you think I shall here come for penitence, sooner or later, if I eat the trash they sell here. I have in my mouth, this very minute, one of those drops you like so much — flavored with anise! Well, all right. I'll make up my mouth for Easter. I hope Dewey will find those plates. John has had a few slides made of some of Mr. Taylor's sketches, and they will be here in a day or two.

All day to day I've been reading MSS. for Dr. W., and have a big batch for to-morrow. Shall soon be able to send you one printed matter. Last week I had a nice letter from Mr. Moolan, in reply to an inquiry for me about his minerals. He wished to be remembered to you. A letter from Miss Bildebeck I enclose here with. Am glad to hear good news of the children, but sorry the weather has been so wretched. However, it ought to be better there than in B., and I would not hurry them away. I think they must be better off there than they would be in Washington — at least for the length of time you mentioned.

Last night I went to a concert by a local club. Two or three of the pieces were pretty fairly played. This eve. at 9½ I am going with Lane to see some minerals, to-morrow evening a small club has a debate on the silver ques. How disappointed I am. Have at last found a man with whom I can play billiards. That has good goes last evening some tonight. Just the exercise I want after tea. I will attend to the Eitel's letter in a day or two.

Well, ta-ta, Mamma, for to-night. Give me a
Kiss on the cheek

L.