

5 Berkeley St

Cambridge Dec 7
1903

My dear Dr. Kennedy,

I was indeed sorry to miss seeing you on Thursday evening at Dr. Richardson's meeting of the Club, and I was especially grieved to learn that you and Mrs. Kennedy were ill. I trust that by this time all discomfort has passed and that you are both far along on the road to recovery. Dr. Richardson told me that you had La Grippe, one of the most trying of the recurrent diseases. It is ubiquitous and iniquitous beyond measure. No precautions serve to guard palace, hovel, or tent from its invasion: we have simply to own up that this microbe always has the best in the fight with mankind. The only advantage which I have ever obtained over it was the occasional excuse (derived from its ravages) for a journey or voyage or camping.

At Dr Richardson's you would have heard a touching and humorous paper by Dr Leighton Parks, an interesting paper by Mr. Agassiz on Coral Reefs in the Maldivian Islands off the Coast of India, and a short account by me of the use of Ether and Chloroform in forcing plants to bloom out of season. The first two papers you have lost for good and all; my experiments repeating those of Professor Johansen and much extending them along lines of a new research, are all ready for you to see when you can come over here. Since they are to be continued during the Spring, there is no need for you to hurry. By and by you and Mrs. Kennedy will perhaps enjoy looking at the startling results of anaesthetics on certain house plants.

In the Museum also I am pretty busy and shall have some interesting things to show you for your approval, I trust.

At home, things move along towards a better state of health. Mrs. Woodall gains slowly, in fact she has not yet been able to sit up in a chair. She plays sitting-up, much as a child would, in bed, but this position wears her still

more than lying down. She is, as you
can conceive, patience itself.

Francis is not quite so strong as we
could wish. At times he reminds us
of Caroline at his age, and we watch
anxiously for every indication of robust
health. Our repeated losses, ^{by death} through
one sort of illness and another, make
us dread every expression of weariness,
and make us rejoice when Francis
feels perfectly well. Just now he is
suffering from occasional headaches
which give us more anxiety than they
do him.

I suppose that Milton is
now white. The views from your
broad windows must be superb. At
the first opportunity, when you and
Mrs. Kennedy are all well, I am
going out to see the views and you.

Mrs. Goodale joins me in sending
to you all affectionate regards and
all good wishes. Yours faithfully
George Goodale



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