

-1847-

Francis Upton to
Elijah Upton

Menlo Park Nov 16

Dear Father:

Maria &
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Just at the present I
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October-December 1879

489

The light is obtained from a piece of charred paper^a which is bent thus



The [~~paper?~~]^b burner^c is [--]^b made from common card board and cut to about the size shown. This is then sealed in a glass bulb and the air exhausted and then a current of electricity passed through it which heats it to brilliant whiteness so that it will give a light equal to that from a good sized gas burner.

The making of such a burner has made the stock of the Electric Light Co. advance in value, \$400 has been offered for shares and there are no takers sellers.^c The last week has made all my prospects very bright, and I hope they will continue so. I expect that there will be an exhibition given in the course of a few weeks. The wire are laid to my house and I shall light up my parlor. If you wanted to show one or two of your pictures you could lend them to me and I would hang them in the best place in my parlor. Ahem!

As matters are turning out I am glad over and over again that I did not spend the year in Germany for I [--]^b now am put in the way of getting a living^a far beyond what I there dreamed was possible.

I am a thorough master of all that is concerned so far in making a good light. We think as far as price is concerned that we can sell it so as to compete with gas at 50 cts a thousand feet. Very much love Your Affectionate^a Son

Francis R. Upton.

ALS, NjWoe, Upton (TAEM 95:572; TAED MU035). ^aObscured overwritten text. ^bCanceled. ^cInterlined above.

1. Maria and Charles Farley.
2. See Doc. 1838 n. 15.