
3. John Harjes was born in Bremen of Danish parents who emigrated to America in 1849. The family located in Philadelphia and Harjes entered the family firm Harjes Brothers in 1853. In 1868, he and Anthony Drexel formed Drexel, Harjes & Co. as the Paris branch of the Drexel banking business (and subsequently a branch of Drexel, Morgan & Co.) with Harjes as managing partner. Drexel, Harjes & Co. became one of the leading private banks in Europe and John Harjes one of the most influential Americans living in Paris; he was awarded the order of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for his role in distributing funds raised in New York for the relief of Parisians during the Franco-Prussian War. Carosso 1987, 134–35.

4. On 19 November, Grosvenor Lowrey wrote Edison that Bailey had given instructions that morning to George Soren to draw up the power of attorney to Harjes. Lowrey warned Soren that “we cannot take instructions through Bailey for other people without running risk.” He warned Edison that “Bailey as Soren says is so ‘damned enterprising’ that one must be careful all the time; & we can’t in the press of business be careful in a proper way except by insisting on having our instructions at first hand — There are apparently a good many papers being prepared and I think you should come over tomorrow or Friday & see Soren & understand them all yourself.” On the 21st Lowrey telegraphed “We have handed Bailey paper prepared on his instructions to be signed by you. You must scrutinize them for yourself because without conference with you we cannot know your wishes nor perhaps understand exactly what your interests require we expected you over today for this purpose.” DF (TAEM 52:422, 427; TAED D7940ZDB, D7940ZDH).

5. The translation is: “Pay any money coming to me to Drexel Harjes. The power of Puskas to receive is revoked.” On 18 November Edison cabled Rousseau: “Pouvoir Puskas revoque argent brevets payable Drexel Harjes.” DF (TAEM 52:417; TAED D7940ZCX).

6. On 21 November, Edison sent a letter to John Harjes through Drexel, Morgan & Co. along with the power of attorney and a statement of his account with Puskas “amounting to $1376.09.” Harjes received these on 16 December. Harjes to TAE, 16 Dec. 1879, DF (TAEM 52:450; TAED D7940ZDS).

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Francis Upton to Elijah Upton

Menlo Park Nov 16 [1879]

Dear Father:

Maria & Charles¹ have been spending today with us and we have enjoyed their being here very much.

Just at the present I am very much elated at the prospects of the Electric Light. During the past week Mr. Edison has succeeded in obtaining the first lamp that answers the purpose we have wished it for. It is cheap much more so than we even hoped to have²

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

![Diagram of a bent piece of charred paper]

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.\(^d\) 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 now am put in the way of getting a living 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 Son

Francis R. Upton.

ALS, NjWOE, Upton (TAEM 95:572; TAED MU035). \(^a\)Obscured overwritten text. \(^b\)Canceled. \(^c\)Interlined above.

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

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**MENLO PARK, N. J. Nov. 17th 1879**

Gentlemen,

We send you the two small phonographs, (left here by Mr Painter),\(^2\) to night by express. We have faced off the parts of lever which clamp the diaphragm. This is absolutely necessary— The German silver springs must be narrower same as

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*To Brehmer Brothers*\(^1\)