

-1847-

Francis Upton to  
Elijah Upton

Menlo Park Nov 16

Dear Father:

Maria &  
Charles have been spending  
today with us and we  
have enjoyed their being  
here very much.  
Just at the present I  
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the prospects of the Electric  
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Menlo Park Nov 16 [1879]

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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 have<sup>2</sup>

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The light is obtained from a piece of charred paper<sup>a</sup> which is bent thus



The [~~paper~~]<sup>b</sup> burner<sup>c</sup> is [--]<sup>b</sup> 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.<sup>c</sup> 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 [--]<sup>b</sup> now am put in the way of getting a living<sup>a</sup> 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<sup>a</sup> Son

Francis R. Upton.

ALS, NjWoe, Upton (*TAEM* 95:572; *TAED* MU035). <sup>a</sup>Obscured overwritten text. <sup>b</sup>Canceled. <sup>c</sup>Interlined above.

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