

-1840-

Menlo Park Nov. 2, 1879.

Francis Upton to  
Elijah Upton

E-6124-29  
Menlo Park Nov. 2, 1879  
Dear Father:  
The electric light is coming up. We have had a fine burner made of a piece of carbonized thread which gave a light of two or three gas jets. Mr Edison now proposes to give an exhibition of some lamps in actual operation. There is talk if he can show a number of lamps of organizing a large company with three<sup>a</sup> or five millions capital to push the matter through.<sup>2</sup> I have been offered \$1,000 for five shares of my stock making at that rate what Edison gave me worth about \$7,400, a good years pay I think. Edison says the stock is worth a thousand dollars a share or more, yet he is always sanguine and his valuations are on his hopes more than on his realities.<sup>3</sup> I am going to New York tomorrow early, to [see?]<sup>b</sup> buy a few book and to go with Lizzie to see if we can get a girl.<sup>4</sup> Your aff &c Son

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Francis R. Upton.

ALS, NjWOE, Upton (TAEM 95:568; TAED MU033). <sup>a</sup>Obscured overwritten text. <sup>b</sup>Canceled.

1. Two days later Edison wired Norvin Green asking for “two line men to erect my wires here for light Exhibition sometime this week my expense.” The men were to report to Menlo Park the following Monday, 10 November. Edison also requested “6 old poles” from Western Union but none were available. Poles were eventually obtained to carry electric lines to Upton’s house; wires to Edison’s home were strung on existing Western Union poles. TAE to Green, 4 Nov. 1879; John Van Horne to TAE, 5 Nov. 1879; James Merrihew to TAE, 7 and 8 Nov. 1879; TAE to Merrihew, 7 Nov. 1879; all DF (TAEM 50:158–59; TAED D7919ZDG, D7919ZDH, D7919ZDI, D7919ZDJ, D7919ZDI1); Upton’s testimony, 5:3242, *Edison Electric Light Co. v. U.S. Electric Lighting Co.*, Lit. (TAEM 48:128; TAED QD012F:126).