

Livingston January 28th 1848

Dear Henry

I received your long expected letter two or three days before Christmas and intended to have gone to Frankfort but not wanting to disappoint your anticipations I determined to remain and see you. But on the day before Christmas one of my sisters was going to Woodford to spend her vacation and as there was no one else to go with her she asked me to accompany her which request I could not refuse. With a sad and disappointed heart I prepared to accompany her. So eager to see you that I determined to defer myself of the pleasure of acoon hunt and I tried to get up on Thursday but some obstacles impeded my going. I tried to get up on Saturday but it was raining so hard that I could not get to the Car. I arrived on Monday morning on the car and heard to my sorrow you were gone. I have been so much employed since my arrival by my studies and our family not having been well it was not in my power to write to you and therefore I hope you will excuse me and I will do better the next time. Since my arrival our town has been the scene of two or three affairs one of which has proved a serious one. It appears that Robert Burns the blacksmith was building a fence the plank of which was furnished by the owner of two adjacent houses belonging to a Mr. Parker and occupied by Burns and Hebler to divide the two lots as I said before Burns according to agreement was building the fence he had nearly finished it when Hebler came over to take some of it to build another fence Parker giving him the surplus Hebler took two planks and threw them over his side Burns took two also and laid hold of the third and Hebler seized hold of it also Burns told him to let go Hebler told him he'd be G-d-d if he did Burns told him he'd be G-d-d if he should not the other responded he would not and Burns struck him over the head with an iron egg he had using which knocked him down and he died the night of the day after that. The others are unvolous affairs I think not worth mentioning as no one was hurt Sam also amongst the best in all my classes and especially in Mathematics. The Irishmen class are doing well with the exception of two or three with all their mischief; we enjoy ourselves as great deal at the expense of poor Punch. The other day Punch was letting his tongue loose in the Mathematical Class Podd told him he did not come there to ta-