

Washington City D.C. Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 86.  
Edwin A Parrott Dayton O.

Dear Ead. Yesterday  
I took dinner at Bob Schucks, the only  
clash at Company I have yet made.  
The President has had two levees since  
I have been here - I have been to neither.  
The heads of Departments have also given  
some reception parties. ~~Notwithstanding~~  
the habitué thinks Washington dull. The  
"dead-lock" of the hour, has paralyzed  
society. Every body feels it in some way, because  
every body felt in some way the benefit  
of the money usually dispensed by the  
now broken & ready representative. Of my  
dinner however. It was quiet. Nobody there  
but Bob & Jimmy & Lily & Mrs Woodhull (of  
the family). It was plain. Table well laid.  
Punch was the first drink - then Madeira  
- then Marachino - then good cigars (you  
know the Schuck cigars are all good)  
first one & then another of the needs  
until I was quite exhausted. In the mean  
time slow but solid talk. It was as  
a Sunday affair - a snowy Sunday at that -  
on the whole pleasant & to be preferred.

In the morning I went to Church with  
Juincy to hear an old classmate preach -  
Mon<sup>r</sup> B. Conway of Virginia, who graduated  
in my class at Carlisle. It was a regular  
abolition speech & was anticipated of judge  
from the presence of the great abolition lights  
such as Sumner & Greeley (who slept all the time)  
& Colfax & Wilson, among others of lesser pretensions.  
It was in style "a la" Parker - characterized  
with uncommon force of thought & grace  
of style - I did not expect to hear such  
things in Washington. The Kansas question  
is before the Senate. The Am. is expected to  
organize this week - It will come before  
~~the~~ immediately. I have an appointment  
for 1/2 past 5 o'clock this evening to  
wait on Judge Collamer - one of the  
Committee on Territories - a free soiler  
to give him some "clues" on Kansas, he  
having the President's message to  
sift (I mean the Kansas message), probably  
to make a minority-report as he is the  
only free soiler on the Committee.  
If the House would organize I could get  
away from here next week. Reed thinks  
he will need my testimony & he can  
not make use of it before a committee  
is appointed to take the matter in hand.

It is quite certain he will get his seat  
- quite as certain that he will make  
distinguished mark on the pusillanimous  
President, according to his opportunity.  
In fact he read me the other day a  
communication he had prepared for  
the N Y Papers in answer to the recent  
Message or rather promising to answer  
it at the proper time & place, you  
will see the communication. As a "touch  
of his quality" I think it does well.

Nothing certain of land warrants, for the  
reason that I have not yet had a chance  
to see Tom Hendricks - the Commissioner  
of the Land Office - upon whom I rely  
chiefly for my information, touching  
the two points, of their prospective decline  
& their availability in Kansas lands.

Shoemaker is arranging for our business  
next summer at Leavenworth. I want to make  
him a remittance - I ought to have  
done it some time ago - of about \$100.00 -  
I wish you would have that amount  
sent to J. C. Shoemaker at Leavenworth  
City. You need only say that it is done  
at my request - as he has charge of all  
my affairs & I desire him to use the  
money to the best advantage.