

Washington City D.C. Jan 26th 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^r 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 war 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.