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30th December 1851

Dear Brother

[Unclear] last with [postsent] of 20 inst giving an account of the birth of another daughter, took us quite by surprise, particularly as it was the first word we had heard in regard to your prospects of this sort. Mary & myself wish Maria & you all the joy & happiness that you both can feel for the new comer. If the happiness of parents is in the proportion to the number of good and healthy children yours must be very great and will probably go on increasing for some time to come. [Sure] have done well I think in [view] of this state of things to form another special partnership and I have no doubt that the new firm of Fenner McMillan & Arthur

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will do full justice to all your expectations. I am particularly glad of it as it presents such a fine opportunity to Arthur to do something for himself. As to the cash dry goods business you will only be able to decide about it after giving it a fair trial. I see no reason why you should not be able to establish such a business as well as any other firm. The reasons for quitting the small [profit] 12 months credit business appear to me quite convincing. [Baring] have [advises] me of another \$500 to my credit which is all right. I had seen in the Tribune an announcement of the death of [Hunt] and at once supposed the cause of it to be the same as you have described. His suffering in feeling as to his [unclear] must have been terrible indeed. He had but few of the requisites to make a good broker. I wish you would keep advised of [unclear] proceedings in letting up the business from others as well as himself and ascertain his views in regard to the note against the firm. It is of a strictly confidential character as you well know, and if there is any confidential class of creditors of [cause] I expect to be placed with them in regard to position.

You say nothing about being pleased with the picture which fell to my lot. As it is not a copy but a [unclear] picture. I am not sure whether I shall like it myself Those who saw it here speak in very light terms of it In your next give me your opinion about it with that of others fond of art. If you see my friends Duggan or James ask them to look

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at it. If they do so give me their opinions. Do you wish me to buy any pictures for you? I could buy those that would furnish your parlors at remarkable prices. If you wish me to do so give me some idea of the kinds and the prices you wish me to pay. I should be glad if you would keep an eye on my engravings in your closet and do see if they are not becoming brown and rusty for want of exposure to the light and air. Before this reaches you, you will have learned of the election of Louis Napoleon by an overwhelming majority. I can only say that he is quite good enough for the people that would elect him. If he does not get Europe into a general war before many years then write me down an ass. A part of the enthusiasm on his behalf is owing to the great [shell] with which he brought about the overthrow of the Assembly. The French

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like to see a thing well done even when the question turns upon the deprivation of rights and liberties. We are spending the winter very quietly and pleasantly here and the time does not [hang long] upon our hands. The weather has been for the most part foggy and cold, and disagreeable 'till within the last few days. Now with the [shows]—we have glorious [wellness] over the whole country about [Florence] The baby is as good as ever, and grows apace. To day she has on for the first time a scarlet merino dress and looks for all the world like a little fine [bird] She sends many kisses to her new cousins Mary joins me in love to Maria and all the children.

Yours Afftely

Edmund

How is Fred [*tearing*] Hope he is doing well

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Treasury is now under the most rigid Austrian rule and we have about six thousand Austrian troops here in Florence. The Grand Duke from being the most beloved of rulers is now become all that I will not say what.