Berlin Feb 14 1868

My dear Sir — I have received your note in which you request me to write down what I casually mentioned in our conversation a few evenings since at the house and in the presence of the American Minister Mr. Bancroft.

Our conversation led us back to our former relations as professors in the University of the city of New York. I remarked that meeting you at this time was in singular coincidence with the fact that while perusing a day or two before the Emilia Galotti of Lessing, certain passages had recalled to me the lectures on Art which I had heard you deliver in that institution. In the course of the conversation I referred also to what I had written of your earliest experiments with the Electro-Magnetic Telegraph of which you are the inventor — The University was opened in the Autumn of 1832. I was one of the first professors elected. In the same year you returned from Europe. Some time after your return and when you yourself had been elected a professor, you related to me, in a free familiar and extended conversation, how your mind had been occupied during your last voyage with the idea of transmitting and recording words through distance by means of an Electro-Magnetic arrangement. The idea, you said, had haunted you whether you lay in your berth or walked the deck, and that you had at length arrived at a definite conception of the required arrangement. This arrangment you explained; and, although I cannot recall all the details of this Explanation, I will recollect that it contained the germ of what you afterwards so successfully accomplished. For 1835 you had advanced so far that you were prepared to give, on a small scale, a practical demonstration of the probability of transmitting and recording words through ~~time~~ distance, by means of an Electro-Magnetic arrangement. — I was one of a limited circle whom you invited to witness the first experiments. — In a long room of the University you had wires extended from end to end where the Magnetic apparatus was arranged. It is not necessary for me to describe details particulars which have now become so familiar to every one. The fact which I now recall with the liveliest interest, and which I mentioned in our conversation at Mr Bancroft's as one of the strongest

recollections of my life, was that of the first transmission and recording of a telegraphic dispatch. I suppose, of course, that you had already made these experiments before the company arrived whom you had invited. But I may claim to have witnessed the first transmission and recording of words by lightning ever made public. All who were present were invited to write and send off dispatches from one end of the room to be recorded at the other. I recollect full well my delight at hearing the words which I silently gave in at one end accurately read from the strip of paper at the other. The fact was established that words — that thoughts, of course, expressed by words could be communicated and recorded with lightning speed from one place to another. — It was one of those startling facts which open to us immeasurable consequences; and justify the imagination in its pictures of the future, and make our dreams but struggles to anticipate surpassing realities. — Permit me, also, to say, that I most sincerely sympathized in the triumph you had won; and that to me it was a reflexion full of satisfaction that you a friend of the philosophic dreamer and poet — Coleridge, and the early associate of Leslie and Allston had, while wandering among the forms of ideal beauty, found a most stupendous practical fact; thus repeating what men are so slow to believe and yet which has so frequently appeared, as in the cases of Michael Angelo, and Milton, and Fulton, that he who pursues the Beautiful, may also think the True, and accomplish the Good. —

The arrangement which you exhibited on the above mentioned occasion, as well as the mode of recording the dispatches were substantially the same as that you now employ. I feel certain that you had then already grasped the whole invention, however you may have since perfected the details — I met you afterwards, when you were engaged in making a longer experiment, by laying the wires underground between Washington and Baltimore — an experiment whose failure led to a most important result — that of putting in practice your early mode of elevating the wires upon poles in the open air; thus escaping the disturbing influences of the earth, and achieving the most economic and rapid execution of the work. — I cannot close without congratulating you that Divine Providence has awarded you what so few attain; the satisfaction, in a green old age, of seeing your work completed, of reaping the rewards and honors which justly belong to you, and of beholding the benefits which your invention has bestowed upon mankind.

Believe me My dear Sir with profound respect and sincere esteem your friend and Obt Svt Henry P. Tappan

Prof. S. F. B. Morse

Berlin Feby 12th 1868

My dear Julia

I send you a copy of my letter to Morse in reply to his. You can lay them away together. They may both be interesting hereafter. Fulton was a pupil of Wests in London as well as Morse. They were not there at the same time. Fulton was, and painting for sometime before he became engaged with the Steam Engine —

It is curious that the painter Fulton should be father of Steam Navigation, and indeed also of Railroads, for the propulsion of vessels on water led to the propulsion of locomotives on land, by Steam: and the paint-

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er Morse the father of the Electro-
Magnetic Telegraph. What a
change these two inventions
have made in the world! How
they have carried forward the
centuries! And they both owe
their origin to American
genius!

Yours ever my dear
Julia