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Second year in Paris

86 Boulevard de Port Royal

Thursday Dec. 21, 1876.

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My dear George,

I am so glad to receive a letter from you dated from home. It seems like old times. Although I have not had the pleasure of welcoming you back, by being present on the joyful occasion of your arrival, if you must allow me to congratulate you on your safe return now that I have heard of it. I live at home in my thoughts, if not by my actual presence; and I am very glad indeed to think of your being there again.

I enclose a view of the building which is to be erected on the Trocadero

for the Exhibition in '78. The main building will be on the Champ de Mars facing northwards. This one is opposite to it on the other side of the Seine, & will be permanent. The Trocadero is the name of a slight eminence on the north bank of the Seine, which forms part of the elevated district on the summit of which stands the Arc de l'Étoile. All the south bank, opposite it, is quite flat, so that although the actual height is not great, it is a commanding position, from which there is a very good view. I have not yet been to the Champ-de-Mars since my arrival this winter, but I will take ^{advantage of} the first opportunity I have, if to go there, as I believe the work of erecting the buildings has commenced.

The holidays we are to have

are now indicated. They are to be
Christmas day, and the 1st & 2nd of
January.

We have an examination of on
Wednesday of next week. The subject is
Hydraulics, a very interesting one, &
not too difficult. The Professor (Collignon)
has consented to examine us on the
first 10 lessons only. This gives us a
reasonable amount to prepare. He goes
over the ground very fast, & is already
more than half-way through his book.

I find all the subjects very interesting
this year, & the work is well arranged
& carefully laid out. For example, after
this examination we have a concours in
Hydraulics based upon the knowledge of
the part on which we are to be examined.

The weather is delightful at present
A fine clear starry sky, and dry

side-walks, together with a certain amount
of moon-light, make it very pleasant.

Wishing you a Happy New Year
I remain,

Your affectionate brother

William.