C 2 7

1872 November - December

lonely prospects when all my children should have quitted me and therefore with the full approval of all my family circle I succeeded in persuading my Cousin Miss Gertrude Beck to solace me in the remaining years which God may give me upon earth. She is many years my junior nevertheless she has arrived at a mature age and quite fit to be the head of a family. My children have all married & settled in their own homes and have all of them their own family ties and duties. I have now been married two months & have never had a moment of regret. But enough of myself. I am very grieved to hear of your sad accident and most sincerely hope that it may turn out better than you anticipate. I shall be quite anxious to hear from you again with I trust an amended report.

What an extraordinary year have we passed through — No part of the world seems to have been exempt from some sad catastrophe. Your horse Epidemic, the sad fires at Chicago and