I understand Chas. Reade has got out a new book but have been unable to learn the name or title to speak more accurately; this is all worth the notice in the literary line except a second vol. of poems by young Stoddard of Boston who, I rather think, will be one Tennyson, without the opium, a shining advantage in his scale—

Speaking of Boston, did you meet while there a Mr. Arthur Gilman who has been here to lecture & pay attention to the Rs. during the past week? He is an architect by profession but seems to have more taste & talent for general literature, for he is unusually conversant with the older English writers and is extremely agreeable & entertaining—He gave two lectures on "Yankee humour & character," but, from immediately following Mr. Curtis who has been discoursing with his usual eloquence & silvery intonations on Sir Philip Sydney, I fear his success wld. have been greater if unheralded by the Howadji—I went to hear neither of them, thinking six or seven lectures a day of whatever character or object 'mythin' enough for yr. devoted

Brother—

P.S. Excuse the absurd letter stuffed on this page—I had run out of letter paper & so borrowed a sheet or two from John, who joins me in love to you all—I enclose Sue's receipt & shall write to morrow to Ma. C.C.L.—

Philadelphia, Jan. 9th '58—

1716

Of course there is no news nor any engagements to report—I cannot tell you how pleased I was to hear of the attention of yr. Bath friends.

Your letter of the 30th Decr. brought with it, my dearest Sister, mingled feelings of pleasure and regret—pleasure because I am always delighted to hear from my best & truest of friends, and regret that it shd. be your last memento of the year that has gone to add another link to the long chain of the past, leaving us behind—how improved or advantaged by its presence?—but better profit by the present & future than despond over the past, so I'll come down from the clouds to things transitory and terrene.—On New Year's evening I went to the Grosses' who receive on Friday evings—partly because Ma has wished me to strike up an acquaintance with the Paterfamilias but chiefly because I wanted to know the girls—It was very gay and as agreeable as the crowd would permit—not especially recherché you know—but essentially jolly, and as the hostesses were as kind to me as possible I had an extremely pleasant time & danced the Lancers till I never want to see or hear them again.

MdHS 1974 [1668-1716]