May 31st, 1898.

My dear Herbert:-

We were all very much delighted to receive your letter this morning, announcing your election to the Gargoyle, and mama wishes me to say that she would have written personally to congratulate you except for the fact that she is and will be for the remainder of the week exceedingly busy, and therefore delegates that pleasant duty to me. Delighted as you were over your success, I think the rest of the family were equally so. We were all more or less afraid that something might have gone wrong when we did not hear from you by wire on Sunday or by mail yesterday. I argued, however, that you did not want to telegraph in the matter and that had you failed of election you would have been more likely to write at once on Saturday than had you been successful, and that, as there was only one mail delivery yesterday, it was quite conceivable that the letter sent off on Sunday should not have come to hand until this morning. I am glad to find that my arguments were correct, and I now have the satisfaction of telling the rest of the family, "I told you so".

I see from your letter that you have sent me several copies of your book, but these have not as yet reached me. No doubt I will get them either later in the day or to-morrow morning. Judging from your statements, the book must have had a good sale, and the publishers
will probably make a fortune on the enterprise. Does the profit, if there is any, accrue to you personally, or is it divided among the four editors? In the former event, I would certainly give whatever you might make to some college purpose, either the athletic association or something else, for I would not take the risk of letting anybody criticise you by saying that you went into the matter for the sake of the profit that might come to you from the sale of the book. If you take my advice, you will not fail to do this, if the sum is large or small.

Clara left for Elberon this morning, and I suppose that for the rest of the week our house will seem very empty without her and the children. They had intended going on Thursday last, but at the eleventh hour Clara changed her mind and decided that the rainy weather would make the house too damp and that she had better wait until we had a change for the better. She is very glad she came to that decision, for both on Thursday and Friday it rained all day, and even on Saturday and Sunday we had occasional showers. This interfered with several plans I had to spend the short holiday, but I got a chance nevertheless to see part of the Mott Haven Games on Saturday, which proved very enjoyable in so far as the standard of the performances was exceedingly high. Of course it was a foregone conclusion that Pennsylvania would win, but it was interesting nevertheless to see any number of records broken and a number of the races were more or less exciting. Your man ran quite well, and was not far behind the leader in his event.

Yesterday afternoon Irving and myself went up the baseball
game and saw about the largest crowd I think that has ever been assembled in the grounds; I believe there must have been over 20,000 people in the various stands.

It is mama's present intention to leave for Elberon on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. Irving and myself will go with her. She might have managed to get off on Friday, but Irving wishes to be in town on Saturday next to hear the result of his examinations, all of which he asserts he did not pass. We don't believe him but don't say this openly to him, as it is just as well to let him think we will not be disappointed in case he should happen to have slipped up in one of them.

Sig was so pleased to hear of your election to the Gargoyle that he now speaks of coming up with Harriet on Friday night just to spend Saturday with you, but you know that merely because he plans something of the kind does not by any means say he will leave up to his present intention.

When do your examinations start, and when do you expect to come down to New York? I would not hurry if I were in your place, as the Berkshires in June are certainly much more delightful than Elberon, where at best you will have little or no company.

Harriet does not intend to go to the Mountains until about the 6th or 7th of July, but the children will leave I think on or about the 28th of June, and if you and Irving care to go with them there would be no objection, I am sure, on Harriet's part, and I presume this plan will suit her. However, you can discuss all this at some subsequent time, as I have already written you more than I had intended.

With love from the entire family, I am yours affectionately,
P.S. I don't know whether any of the family have written you that Hattie and Settie have practically decided to rent the Ehrich Cottage at Saranac. This, you know, is right adjoining the property on which Clara is now building, and it will make it very pleasant for all concerned, particularly as by this means mama will be enabled to be a large part of the family during at least a couple of months of the summer; in fact, in August and September I will be the only member of the family circle not in the Mountains, and I shall try to run up then for a few days so as to make the party absolutely complete.