

Cambridge, Mass., October 27 1897

5 GARDEN STREET.

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the volume of early discoveries & adventures in Australia, and for the account of Germany with its curious charts, which came yesterday. Of the volume I read enough to get a few vivid pictures of a condition so strange as that it describes, but regret that the sudden & great fatigue of my eyesight after a year of special strain prevents my larger acquaintance with it. I have placed the two, together in the Harvard University library, where the maps & charts will be especially welcome. My daughter, who is just now absent, will value & thank you for the pamphlet on proportional voting - which I shall try to under-

stand, though my present opinion is that in a country like this, where voters count by millions and offices by many scores, if any change is attempted from our present crude fashion, it will have to be in a way much more rough & ready, and much less nice. I doubt if such schemes and experiments ever get much beyond our studies or debating-clubs; and fancy that, if we have anything to trust, it is that on so enormous a scale one error will balance off another so as to give us a modus vivendi, with some little improvement as we learn by experience. Our great test is coming off next Tuesday, in the election in Greater New York - where, to us at a distance, the issue seems quite plain between honest government and the basest sort of machine rule.

Very respectfully, and with
our united best wishes,

J. F. Allen.