VB1a(4)

MILFORD, PA., 1889 SEPTEBER 30.

DEAR JEM+

I enjoyed your letter highly. Unfortunately, I have neither the materials nor talent to give you a similar treat in return. I can only tell you a little of how we get on. Our house is very comfortable, very pretty. It is not in the least in the Queen Anne nor any other style. It is our own original style. The side towards the road, which is not very far distant, presents four windows on each of the two stories, and a verander for the lower story. This part is one room deep and has two rooms in each storey. It is gabled at the sides or ends, and at one end has a two storey bay window, and at the other end a two-storey semi-circular lattice-work, for vines, and for a balcony above. Back of this part of the h use is another part of the same breadth, except for a circumstance which I am about to mention, and equally one room deep. In this part, on the same side as the bay window, is the front door, the approach to which is through a garden of most lovely flowers. The front door is ten feet wide, opening in four flaps with glass in the upper halves, and opening upon a porch. The square room into which you enter we call the garden room: it has a Charles II mantle, painted in three colors and opposite the front door is an arched door leading into the dining room. This dining-room has a fire-place some five feet wide and 4 high with a crane [the fire-place being built of stone] and a superb old mantlepiece. Opposite the arched door, is a glass door and a French window leading out into the conservatory, which is 7 feet wide. The outside glasses being taken off of this in summer, leaves it a kind of porch ; so that the house is that much less wide in summer. Above the garden room is Juliette's sitting-room This upper storey in this part of the house has a French roof on the sides. The steep slope is straight on this side of the house and curved on the other. The sitting-room has a long French window 5 feet wide opening out upon a balcony over the front door and porch ; and from this is the most enchanting view of the hills and the river, with the greatest profusion of flowers in the garden below. I should say that this storey in this part of the house is quite lofty. Back of the sitting-room is Juliette's bed-room with two recessed French windows with deep window-seats. Then we have in a part of the house I have not described a good bath-room [the water from our own spring is delicious] lots of closets, pantry, kitchen with a firstclass range, laundry with set tubs, a capital cellar under the whole house, as dry a a bone, furnace &c. We have besides another ~~two-storey dwelling-house [we are going to build another] and two barns, an enormous ice-~~ rouse, sawmill, &c. I must mention that the wood of which the house is built is very choice. Upstairs and in the kitchen, the floors are of Georgia pine hardfinished, and downstairs they are of white- ash and waxed. All the locks knobs and other hardware is artistic. There is a fireplace in every room, for wood is as cheap a fuel as coal. Ou nearest neighbors except farmes are at Mi lford, 2½ miles away, and the Pinchots are a mile further. The railway is 4½ miles away ; but we think nothing of these distances. We have two splendid farm-horses and a fine trotter. I am confident that we shall eventually make money from this place. But now I must turn to quite another side of the convass: This is dear Juliette's health. She has some symptoms of disease of the lungs, which occasion me the greatest inquietude, and produce in her a depression of spirits which is in itself a serious matter. She suffers great pain in her chest and left arm, is very weak, and brings up considerable mucus. On the other hand, many of the symptoms are not present. She has no cough, she does not lose flesh, and she