

Rec'd Jan. 4th 184

Ans'd " 18th "

Miss M. E. Garrell

Montebello

Jan. 3, 1884 (1)

Dear Mary, as you said you had
not read "The Story of Ida" I th'lt
you wd. perhaps let me send it
instead of the New Years Eve
letter I might have written
had I - been more like Mrs
Phelps. As it was, while the rest
of the family were at a watch-
meeting, I walked thro. the parlors
& library rereading many pieces
of Longfellow, learned by Bessie
& myself at sunset in unwonted

places - on the roof of our house,
 perched on the grape vine arbor,
 or on tree tops. I was afraid of
 interrupting yr. visit to Beere &
 thus did not take time to say
 how very much happiness I hope
 this year may bring you. A New
 Years card - a photo. of the Pont
 du Gard where we spent last
 years New Years day, lying on the
 grass under the bluest Provence
 sky, missing to the accompaniment
 of the most persistent Provence
 crickets - made me realize
 that one kind of happiness

lies behind me rather than before, at least
for a year.

A few weeks to the Peabody have shown
me that I am so sadly behind on in German &
Engl. & French bibliography that I shall have to
read for several weeks before I can begin so Anna
King & I shall not drive out to see you until
next Monday aft. We shall start at 3.

Hoping that Mr Garrell is better & that yr
intercostal neuralgia, dear Mary, no longer troubles

you -
Very lovingly yrs

This note sd. have been sent 2 days ago but a severe
Bill's headache kept me in my room & today
a disease wh. I had to choose made it imp. to think
of anything more pleasant -

Thursday Even.