

Avery to J M

754 - 14th Street

Nov. 21, 1897.

Dear Judie; — Mamma read to me your letter telling about your quarters and how the jury had "cinched" you. I hope you will try again in February, "brave old gal." You must make Miss Whitney do her share of the work. Pretty well broken in to French now?

Next Thursday is Thanksgiving Day and the usual foot-ball game is to be played and in all probability with the usual victors victorious.

Am working now on the design of a railroad bridge in which I am quite stupid. There are nine in the class and this is the actual state of affairs — Six of them have all pretty good heads, of five of them you couldn't say which was the best, they work rapidly and stay together. The other three consist of myself, one who is repeating the work and a third whose name is a signal for laughing. We keep about together. Now, what do you think of your brother? This cannot be much of a surprise to you, if you traced back.

my record you would find nothing more encouraging. My work with Mr. Maybeck and Prof. Kover was awful poor and in the High School where I might have done best lots there is hardly any record to show that I did anything. It is that the kind of people they send to Paris: ones who couldn't compare with French High School boys. When people speak of my going to Paris, I am at a loss what to say and so say nothing when Beaux Arts is mentioned I have to laugh - it seems so ridiculous! If there was anything which I thought I could do better at it wouldn't seem so hard, but there is not. It is hard to be a disappointment to your family. I am sorry for you who have always been so good to me. You have been no disappointment to anybody. But never mind, the past cannot be helped, we can only look out for the future and try again. Hoping you are well, I remain
"The old man,"

(very)