

CALIFORNIA VOTING MACHINE
COMMISSION.

Oakland, Cal., October 25th 1898

Dear Julia

Your letter of Oct 3d informing me of Avery's arrival was duly received. I hope you will continue to enjoy your trip together and wish that I could be one of the party. In the last two years I have read so much of French history, that I believe I should feel quite at home in visiting the scenes where such important events have occurred.

We were all pleased with the new trail of "possessing things" which you mention as having developed, but trust it will not get you into trouble.

At the present time we are having very pleasant weather, heavy early rains having washed away the Summer's dust and purified the air. Your mother is now continuing to give her much pain, but she will not have anything done for it. Otherwise we are all in usual health.

Yesterday we celebrated Gardner's birthday in a quiet way. The elections are now occupying public attention. In this State it is very difficult to forecast the result. The dry season & local dullness in business are favorable to the party of discontent. While I cannot turn to the Democratic party, I cannot but feel that the policy of the annexation of the Philippines is a mistake which will mar the future of the United States. The opportunity to improve the moral and political condition

of primitive races, conjoined with increase in wealth
makes the proposition an attractive one to elements
which otherwise would be in opposition. The
reflection upon our government and social conditions
are dangers which cannot be too carefully guarded
against.

I hope you have had an opportunity to see the plans
for the University buildings. It is a subject in
which I take great interest. There have been but
few houses erected in Berkeley this year. The water
question has been a great check back to the growth
of the place. Of course this difficulty will be
overcome in time.

Our duties as a Commission will soon terminate &
when our Report is printed I will send you a copy.
But few devices having merit have been presented.

I hope that you & Avery will enjoy the winter
together.

With much love

C. B. Brown