Brooklyn Oct 1st, 1858

Dear Sister I have been trying every day since Kate returned to get time to write you but have had so much to do that I could not. Kate was not as well for a few days after she got home, but is better now. She feels well, and I hope she will continue to improve. Arthur and the baby are well. Tuesday afternoon Kate, Arthur and I went to the Chrysanthemum Palace, and had been there about an hour and a quarter when the Cry of Fire was made, and all was confusion, some crying and screaming, and all running to get out. I was some distance from Mrs. A. and immediately began looking for them. I was not long in finding them, Kate calm and composed, but Arthur dreadfully excited, and crying wanting his mother to run. We were near where the fire
originated, and on the opposite side of
the building from the entrance, you
may be sure that we didn't spend
much unnecessary time in making our
way out. We had scarcely crossed the street
before the smoke followed us, and in about
two or three minutes the flames. It was
not more than ten minutes from the time
the alarm was given, before that immense
building was completely enveloped in flames.
A more fearful sight I have not beheld
since 1848 whereof you probably have not
forgotten. The cracking of glass, and roaring
sound of wind, & flames, as they rushed
up through roof, and side of the building,
it would be necessary to see to be appreciated.

Very little of the immense value in goods
& merchandize was saved. My Cases
and contents went with the rest, my actual
loss will not vary much from 900 dollars.
It will be a little more than this, rather than less.
I had thought of insuring, but did not,
and I suffered there was little, or no risk
in such a building. A more full account
you will see in a paper which we send you,
I feel sorry to have to sustain such a
lot in such a manner, but it will not
embarrass me, and if I have good luck
this fall I can soon make it up.

You must excuse me for writing now
to-day as I have yet to go to the city.
I want to hear from you all. If Mother
can write I should like to read a few lines
from her, also from E. Do you write
me all you know, as it will only take
you a few minutes. Love to all.

Yours affectionately

Frank