1897, May 31

My dear Professor Turner:

We were very happy a few days ago when we were just starting in with the 470 mm. and everything was promising splendidly when on Saturday morning the great elevating floor fell with an awful crash and completely wrecked itself. I am afraid it will take all summer to remove the wreck and replace the floor. It was a most dreadful shock to us. The floor was near at its highest point when it fell—so that I dropped one arc 60 feet. The south side gave way and it stands now at an angle of about 45° or more, the glass having been driven to one side at the time—fortunately it was just at the time when no one was in the building. Three hours and a half earlier and I should have gone down with it as I was observing up to 3:30 a.m. It could not have gone down in a better way than it did.

With sincere regards,

Very truly,

[Signature]
what we got done of the lens seemed to show that it was a most excellent one, though the size did not permit the use of a high power.

I got a few images by putting in a small micrometer. The large glass is not here yet. The night before I stayed up all night with the glass in and the telescope. The glass works admirably and the pond of water is perfect. It's a magnificent instrument.

Kindly remember me to your sister and to Dr. Cowperthwaite when you see him.

I got a beautiful negative of the 40 in but have not been able to get prints from it as yet, so I do not want you to send you several prints of the observation and our house.

Mrs. Burnham will be our Sunday school visitor. She is much disappointed at the new delay. It is too bad.

We are all well.