Appendix 1

Edison’s Autobiographical Notes

From 1907 to 1909 Edison wrote a series of autobiographical notes to assist Thomas C. Martin and Frank L. Dyer in their preparation of his authorized biography. Edison produced Document D, including notes on queries posed by Martin, probably about October 1907. This was followed by the recollections in books A and G, made in September and October of 1908. This material was incorporated into the initial chapters of the biography, which were complete by February 1909; Martin then requested additional personal reminiscences from Edison in order to flesh out the remaining chapters. William Meadowcroft, who was coordinating the project, acknowledged in May 1909 that the continuing lack of Edison’s additional material was a “very serious affair,” and the next month Edison produced the notes in books E and F. Some of these formed the basis for oral interviews with Martin, the typed transcripts of which became documents B and C; together, these four documents served as the basis for anecdotes related in later chapters of the published biography.

Five of the documents contain sections related to events of the period of Volume Seven; those sections are published here. Edison sometimes referred in the same paragraph to the periods covered by more than a single volume; these paragraphs will be reprinted as appropriate. Each document has been designated by a letter and each paragraph has been sequentially numbered. A few individual items that were inadvertently omitted from previous volumes are presented here. Items that are either solely by the the interlocutor or completely indistinct as to time have not been transcribed.
1. Dyer & Martin 1910. The designations A through F were assigned to these documents in Volume One, which also contains a general editorial discussion of them. See TAEB 1 App. 1; document G was discovered later.


3. Martin to TAE, 23 Feb. 1909, Meadowcroft (TAED MM001BAP).


5. The autobiographical documents designated E and G do not refer to the period of this volume. The sections from A published in Volumes One and Four were drawn from a typed version of Edison’s notes prepared by William Meadowcroft. However, a copy of Edison’s original manuscript, in a notebook labeled “Book No. 1 September 1, 1908 Mr. Edison’s notes re. Biography,” was published in Part IV of the microfilm edition. Meadowcroft (TAED MM002).

A. BOOK NO. 1

The following is a transcription of a typescript that William Meadowcroft prepared from reminiscences that were originally written by Edison in a notebook labeled “Book No. 1” and dated 11 September 1908. The contents of the notebook pertain to the period covered by Volume One with the exception of the initial five paragraphs, which describe Edison’s 1878 Western trip, and a short paragraph (14), which relates Edison’s alleged discovery of a Morse diary while renting a house in Gramercy Park in 1882–83.

[14] In 1885 I rented a house in Gramercy Park New York City which many years ago was the most fashionable quarter of the city. One day I went into the Garrret & found in a drawer the private Diary of SFB Morse the inventor of the telegraph, as now used. This seemed to be a strange Coincidence The diary is now in the Library of the Soc of Elec Engineers

B. FIRST BATCH

The following is a transcription of a typescript that Edison revised. At the top of the first page is a handwritten note: “First Batch Notes dictated by Mr Edison to T. C. Martin June, 1909.— Pencil indicates Mr. Edison’s revision.”
“Honest” John Kruesi

[27] One of the workmen I had at Menlo Park was John Kruesi, who afterwards became from his experience engineer of the lighting stations and subsequently engineer of the Edison Electric Light Works at Schenectady. Kruesi was very exact in his expressions. At the time we were promoting and putting up electric light stations in Pennsylvania, New York and New England there would be delegations of different people who proposed to pay for these stations. They would come to our office in New York at 65 to talk over the specifications, the cost and other things. At first Mr. Kruesi was brought in, but whenever a statement was made which he could not understand or did not believe could be substantiated, he would blurt right out among these stockholders that he didn’t believe it. Finally it disturbed these committees so much and raised so many doubts in their minds, one of my chief associates said: “Here Kruesi, we don’t want you to come to any of these meetings any longer. You are too painfully honest.” I said to him. “We always tell the truth. It may be deferred truth, but it is the truth.” He could not understand that.

[29] After the station had been running several months and was technically a success, we began to look after the financial part. We started to collect some bills but we found that our books were kept badly and that the person in charge who was no business man had neglected that part of it. In fact he did not know anything about the station anyway. So I got the directors to permit me to hire a man to run the station. This was Mr. Chinnock, who was then superintendent of the Metropolitan Telephone Company of New York. I knew Chinnock to be [blank] square and of good business ability and induced him to leave his job. I made him a personal guarantee that if he would take hold of the station and put it on a commercial basis and paid 5 per cent on $600,000, I would give him $10,000 out of my own pocket. He took hold, performed the feat, and I paid him the $10,000. I might remark in this connection that years afterwards I applied to the Edison Electric Light Company asking them if they would not like to pay me this money, as it was spent when I was very hard up and made the company a success, and was the foundation of their present prosperity. They said they “were sorry,” that is “Wall Street sorry,” and refused to do it. This shows what a nice, genial, generous lot of people they have over in Wall street.

[30] Chinnock had a great deal of trouble getting the customers straightened out. I remember one man who had a sa-
loon on Nassau street. He had his lights burning for two or three months. It was in June, and Chinnock put in a bill for $20; July for $20; August about $28; September about $35. Of course the nights were getting longer. October about $40. November about $45. Then the man call Chinnock up. He said: “I want to see you about my electric light bill.” Chinnock went up to see him. He said, “I have the honor.” “Well,” he said, “my bill has gone from 20 up to 28, 35, 45. I want you to understand, young fellow, that my limit is 60!”

[31] After Chinnock had all this trouble due to the incompetency of the previous superintendent, a man came in and said to him: “Did Mr. Blank have charge of this station?” “Yes.” “Did he know anything about the running of a station like this?” Chinnock said: “Does he know anything running a station like this? No, sir. He doesn’t even suspect anything.”

[32] One day Chinnock came to me and said: “I have a new customer.” I said “What is it?” He said “I have a fellow who is going to take 250 lights.” He said “I have a fellow who is going to take 250 lights” I said “What for?” “He has a place down here in a top loft and has got 250 barrels of “rot gut” whiskey. He puts a light down in the barrel and lights it up and “ages” the whisky. I met Chinnock several weeks after and said, “How is the whiskey man getting along?” “It’s all right; he is paying his bill. It fixes the whiskey and takes the shudder right out of it.” Somebody went and took out a patent on this idea later.

[33] In the second year we had put the Stock Exchange on the circuits of the station, but were very fearful that there could be a combination of heavy demand and a dark day and that there would be an overloaded station. We had an index like a steam gauge, called an ampere meter to indicate the amount of current going out. I was up at 65 one afternoon. A sudden black cloud came up and I telephoned to Chinnock and asked him about the load. He said “We are up to the muzzle, and everything is running all right.” By and by it became so thick we could not see across the street. I telephone down again and felt something would happen; but fortunately, it did not. I said to Chinnock: “How is it now?” He said “Everything red hot, and the ampere meter has made 17 revolutions!”

A NOCTURNAL SURPRISE

[49] One night when I had my laboratory at the top of the Bergmann works, on Avenue B and 17th Street, covering about a quarter of the block, about 2 o’clock in the morning I heard
“tramp, tramp, tramp” on the stairs. Six men walked into the room, six of the engineers. They never looked at me but walked right into my cubby hole, sat down, threw all the apparatus off the table and started a poker game. They never answered me, but stayed there until about six o’clock, when they walked out and never looked at me. The building was six stories high. My father came there when he was 80 years of age. The old man had powerful lungs. In fact when I was examined by the Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1873, my lung expansion was taken by the doctor. The old gentleman was there at the time. He said to the doctor “I wish you would take my lung expansion.” The doctor took it and his surprise was very great, as it was one of the largest on record. I think it was five and one-half inches. There were only three or four could beat it. Little Bergmann hadn’t much lung power. The old man said to Bergmann, “Let’s run upstairs.” Bergmann said “Yes” and ran up. When they got there Bergmann was done up, but my father never showed a sign of it. There was an elevator there, and each day while it was traveling up I held the stem of my watch up against the column in the elevator shaft and it finished the winding by the time I got up the six stories.

UNPROFITABLE LAMP MANUFACTURE.

When we first started the electric light, it was soon seen that we had to have a factory for manufacturing lamps. As the Edison Light Company did not seem disposed to go into manufacturing, with what money I could raise from my other inventions and royalties, and some assistance, we started a small lamp factory at Menlo Park. The lamps at that time were costing about $1.25 each to make so I said to the company “If you will give me a contract during the life of the patents I will make all the lamps required by the company and deliver them for 40 cents.” The company jumped at the chance of this offer and a contract was drawn up. We then bought at a receiver’s sale at Harrison, N.J. a very large brick factory which had been used for an oil cloth works. We got it at a great bargain and only paid a small sum down, and the balance on mortgage. We moved the lamp works from Menlo Park to Harrison. The first year the lamps cost us about $1.10. We sold them for 40 cents, but there were only about 20,000 or 30,000 of them. The next year they cost us about 70 cents and we sold them for 40. There were a good many and we lost more the second year than the first. The third year I had succeeded in getting up machinery and in changing the processes until
it got down so that they cost us somewhere around 50 cents. I still sold them for 40 cents and lost more money that year than any other because the sales were increasing rapidly. The fourth year I got it down to 37 cents and I made all the money up in one year that I had lost previously. I finally got it down to 22 cents and sold them for 40 cents and they were made by the million. Whereupon the Wall street people thought it was a very lucrative business, so they concluded they would like to have it and bought me out.

[55] One of the incidents which caused a very great cheapening was that when we started one the important processes had to be done by experts, which was the sealing in of the part carrying the filament, into the globe, which was rather a delicate operation in those days and required several months of training before any one could seal in a fair number of parts in a day. When we got up to the point where we employed 80 of the experts, they formed a union, and knowing it was impossible to manufacture lamps without them, they became very insolent. One instance was that the son of one of these experts was employed in the office and when he was told to do anything would not do it or would give an insolent reply. He was discharged, whereupon the union notified us that unless the boy was taken back the whole body would go out. It got so bad that the manager came to me and said he could not stand it any longer; something had got to be done. They were not only more surly, but they were diminishing the output, and it became impossible to manage the works. He got me enthused on the subject, so I started in to see if it was not possible to do that operation by machinery. After feeling around several days I got a clue how to do it. I then put men on it I could trust and made the preliminary machinery. That seemed to work pretty well. I then made a another machine which did the work nicely. I then made a third machine and would bring in the yard men, ordinary laborers, and when I could get these men to put the in parts in as well as the trained experts, in an hour, I considered the machine complete. I then went secretly to work and made 30 of the machines. Up in the top loft of the factory we stored these machines and at night we put up benches and got everything all ready. Then we discharged the office boy. Then the union went out. It has been out ever since.

**Figuring Out Mains.**

[61] It is true that Sprague figured out mains for us of new stations while he was at Brockton, on a new mathematical ba-
sis, but we already had a good system of determining the size of the mains and of laying them out in miniature in German silver wire. We made a complete survey of the place before figuring them out. This system was so perfect that we could go into a man’s store and say: “Your gas bill in December was $62.40.” When he looked it up it was usually within 5 per cent of it. We sometimes found that our estimates were too small, and I soon discovered the cause of this. We went to a place in Sixth Avenue. The man’s bill ought to have been $16. It was $32. We took a delicate meter up there and found that there was a leak, which has been going on for fifteen years. Then I found that leakage was very general in New York, and that many complaints of gas bills were due to bad pipes in men’s houses. For instance, when we took the factory at Avenue B and 17th street, I told Bergmann he had better test his pipes to see what the leakage was. It was rather extensive factory. Upon testing it from Saturday night to Monday morning we found his leakage bill was about $85 a month. We used a little one foot test meter in this work.

Visitors To 65.

[63] I have spoken of Remenyi’s visits. Henry E. Dixey, then at the height of his popularity, would come in those days, after theatre hours, and would entertain us with stories—1882–3–4. Another visitor who used to give us a great deal of amusement and pleasure was Capt. Shaw, the head of the London Fire Brigade. He was good company. He would go out among the fire laddies and have a great time. One time Robert Lincoln and Anson Stager, of the Western Union, interested in the electric light, came on to make some arrangement with Major Eaton, president of the Edison Electric Light Company. They came to 65 in the afternoon and Lincoln commenced telling stories—like his father. They told stories all the afternoon, and that night they left for Chicago. When they got to Cleveland, it dawned upon them that they hadn’t done any business, so they had to come back on the next train to New York and transact it. They were interested in the Chicago Edison Company, now one of the largest of the systems in the world. I once got telling a man stories at the Harrison lamp factory, in the yard as he was leaving. It was winter and he was all in furs. I had nothing on to protect me against the cold. I told him one story after the other—six of them. Then I got pleurisy and had to be shipped to Florida for cure.
SITTING BULL.

[69] Sitting Bull and 15 Sioux Indians came to Washington to see the Great Father and then to New York, and went to the Goerck Street works. We could make some very good pyrotechnics there so we determined to give the Indians a scare. But it didn’t work. We had an arc there that was of a most terrifying character, but they never moved a muscle.

VILLARD’S RALLY.

[73] When Villard was all broken down and in a stupor caused his disasters in connection with Northern Pacific Mrs. Villard sent for me to come and cheer him up. It was very difficult to rouse him from his despair and apathy, but I talked about the electric light to him, and its development, and told him that it would help him win it all back and put him in his former position. Villard did make his great rally, he made money out the electric light, and he got back control of the Northern Pacific. Under no circumstances can a hustler be kept down. If he is only square he is bound to back on his feet. Villard has often been blamed and severely criticised, but he was not the only one to blame. His engineers had spent twenty millions too much in building the road and it was not his fault if he had found himself short of money and at that time unable to raise any more.

A HAND DYNAMO.

[79] When we had the factory at Harrison, an importer in the Chinese trade came to us and wanted a dynamo to run by hand power. He explained that in China human labor was cheaper than steam power. I got one of the horsepower forms of machine and put long spokes on it, fitted it up and shipped to China. I never heard of it again.

[81] When I was a young fellow, the first thing I did when I went to a town was to put something into the savings bank and start an account. When I came to New York, I put $50 into a savings bank under the New York Sun office. After it had been in about two weeks, the bank bust. That was in 1870. In 1909 I got back $6.40 with a charge of $1.75 for law expenses. That shows the beauty of New York receiverships.

TD (transcript), NjWOE, Meadowcroft (TAED MM003). *Interlined above in pencil. †Canceled. ‡“I telephoned to Chinnock and” interlined above. ‡“r” interlined above in pencil. "Quotation mark added in pencil.
C. SECOND BATCH

The following is a transcription of a typescript that includes Edison’s revisions. At the top of the first page is a handwritten note: “Second Batch Mr Edison’s notes dictated Mr Martin June 1909 Pencil indicates revision by Mr Edison.”

VISIT OF DIAZ.

[14] President Diaz of Mexico, visit this country with Mrs. Diaz, a highly educated and beautiful woman. She spoke very good English. They both took a deep interest in all they saw. I don’t know how it ever came about, as it is not in my line, but I seemed to be delegated to show them around. I took them around to railroad buildings, electric light plants, fire departments, and showed them a great variety of things. It lasted two days.

THE EDISON EFFECT.

[18] An effect was shown in connection with the Edison lamps at the Philadelphia Electrical Exhibition of 1884. It became known as the Edison effect—showing a curious current or condition or discharge in the vacuum. It has been since employed by Fleming in England and by DeForest in this country and others as a wireless apparatus. It is really a rectifier of alternating currents, and analogous to those which have since been made on a large scale.

BEATING MORGAN.

[20] The president of the Edison Electric Light Company was a good lawyer but not a business man, and the affairs of the Company suffered. I got interested in this situation around 1884, and took a hand in matters. I am the only man that ever beat Drexel & Morgan Company over an election of directors and officers. I wanted a change so I went around and saw the stockholders and got their proxies. Then the Drexel, Morgan crowdb peopleb tried to get them and I had them. My opponents wanted the proxies revoked and new ones made out, but none of the stockholders would break the proxies they had given me. I had their confidence and they believed in my plans. Then Drexel & Morgan agreed to my terms, and we put in a business man—and the Company went ahead. I saw about 75 stockholders and was at it for two whole days. I then went to Mr. Fabbri of the firm & told him if he would put in a business man he could have the proxies. To this he agreed & a business man went in— It was all very friendly.c
D. BOOK NO. 2
This undated notebook, labeled “Book No. 2,” contains a mix of narrative passages, questions, and notes in Edison’s hand. The first two pages are a memo by Meadowcroft, dated 9 January 1920, recounting the preparation and use made of this material between 1907 and 1910. The next sixty-six pages alternately present narrative passages and brief references to various anecdotes, many of which relate to the period covered by this volume. The next nine-page section is labeled “Martin’s Questions.” The remaining twenty-one pages contain only notes.

[50] House in Grammacy Park found Morses personal Diary—

[103] Remenyi—
[104] Dixie—
[105] Bergmann—boxes nailed to floor
[106] Stewart & Madam Counsend
[107] Bergmann & Galvanometer stopped whistle to save steam

[108] Walking down to Lab ave B & 17 school hours saluted by children thinking I was a priest—
[109] Country Goerck & the Hq—threatened suit—
[110] Try to Chicago Parker—Bergmann thought it was philo—

[111] 65th 5th ave. ofs hours 24—Remenyi H N Dixie Duke of Sunderland—Bull Run Russell—Insull—
[112] W H Vanderbilt—Mrs. Vanderbilt ordering Engines out Tinsel on fire—Insull—ran everything talk shop at [reachers?] funeral

[113] Kiralfy—1st time behind stage—
[114] Chinnock—10 000 if 5% on 600,000 Years after board when about sell out wouldn’t reimburse said sorry (wall st sorry)

[115] To assistant Chinnock said dont walk from Yonkers take the train

[117] Emery & the opposition Steam Heat Explosion Lamp—black in Maiden lane E & myself [oughts?] talking over our project

Appendix 1
Meters frozen light lighted poured water on—
Casho—don’t know anything don’t Suspect anything
Saloon mans bill 15 20 25 35 45 Limit was 60
Explosion gas Engines 65 5th ave celler stunned—
Wag got every gas bill ny & laid out mains — also every hoist way — & placed they used power—
1st starting pearl st Station Engines run away
A&S run 24 hours day 365 days never stopped—
Melted Cobble stone at feeder box—
Aging whisky — shudder out.
Salvation by Mercury — strikers & auto machine that busted them—
Jalop & watchman—
Saluted as Catholic priest walking to Lab Ave B 17
Bergmann stopped whistle wasted steam
Poker 2 c am [ring?] d never noticing me
Father 80 walked 6 stories all puffing old man never puffed—
Country boy mouth full mercury
Jumbo across town to Paris aided by police
Running Lathes in Goerck st—
Tesla dreamer—
Soux indians at Goerck
A&S Engine Crank burst no sleep for seems 3 days—
spit blood — Dean
Wkd year 1/2 raised Economy Lamp from 10 to 15 per hp— how got cigars for many years—
Presdt Diaz & wife NY
Machine for china to be worked by hand—
Steele Mackay & Wm Winters
W H Vanderbilt house lighting—tinsel on fire Etc—
Unanimous decision E E Light Co board nothing nothing in trolly
1st Jumbo Paris Elec Exh— braking Crank shaft Eng— Volts too low raised by Extra magnets raised by Extra Magnets racing across NY 6 horses all police cleared streets— bbl Beer?
Running Lathes outside Goerck St Tannery Dist Leader — big June & Tannery Leader
Bldg Elec Loco 6 ft drivers
Starting Pearl St Stn torsion shaft—
Christian Herter—Vanderbilt house Vanderbilt coming into 65 5th ave Twombly in WU & telephones
Remenyi — Tinsel on fire WHV house Mrs V ordering out of cellar Eng & B—
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Jas G Bennet came into 65 5th ave said go around the world ordered Howland put it in Herald immediately

Elec leaking ann & nassau old Horse—

Emery & Steam heat & myself Laying tubes— Lampblack Opstn—

Smoked my own cigar’s—hair horn & gallon—

Laying tubes Hugo O Thompson & inspectors—e

Kreuzi Smallc stations, painfully honest, deferred truthc

Chinnoek

Starting Station Engines run away it Torsion shaft, A & S—f Meter red hot. Ampere meter 2 Rev Stock Ex feeder Crossed melted Ton of paving blocks—c

Casho, Man having limit to his bill. Emery & Steam Heat Co Lampblack Opposition Co—a

Great Cost building 1st station surprised—c

Johnson & Holbern viaductc

Tesla—Invented Hello for telephnd

Puskas & Bailey—failure German Edison Co. now allegman Geshelshaft—English Co never got anythinge

Lab over Bergmann, poker

Fatherc running up 6 stories wind Waterbury on Elevatora

Tube shop in Washn st Pierpont Morgan only investment made repaid 10 times overc

Nearly Killed by bricking Machine bolt in Lab—

Duke Sutherland Bull Run Russell— Capt Shaw.

Dixy funny stories—

Glass & Agt of England Ins Co Cherooke Mining Co man & London Ins Co man to get me drunka

Stager & Bob Lincoln tell stories returned & forgot what came fora

Loss of English Elec light mistake of Lawyer misleading Fabbri of JPMa

65 5th ave ofs hours 24 dailya

Explosion gas Engine in Cellar hurt me—-

Big Jim— Dist Tam Leader Lathes run on sidewalk Dean— Tesla here. Sims Engine—broke shaft. All night house lunch 1 clam for season in chowder— [6 fl ys pieces of pie?] 6 fl ys for Each pie— Bad neighborhood, thieves—accompained James Russell late night, Spit blood, Deans boy—a

Sioux indians— Dog got between belt flattened.a

fun on Cor Ann & Nassau leaky pavement, horse.a

Invented the multiple tubes & gave plans to the Tannery Boss in 1881,= they adopted it
[364] Villard bust wife sent for me cheer him up— man with 3 lambs, said Wall st men had no forethought best men in [Harwards?] Leather Dynamo order [-----] I had sew bet too and nothing several times [----------]  

[365] Incandescent Lights at Neblos & Iolanthe Bijou Theatre Boston  

[367] Ansonia letting us have copper money after seeing our books—terrible time with pay rolls— Selling drafts on London & Cabling money to pay them—  

[369] Lamp Contract, of Cutting on telephone wanted know what kind of a Co it was to pay div Every week  

[370] When had board meeting I was always the one that was the odd member in voting  

[371] We Board unanimous nothing in Trolley Except Villard  

[372] Meadowcroft find Letter signed by all Directors  

[376] Moved Lab from Menlo to Ave B & 17 then to Lamp factory  

[378] chinese hand Electric Turning  

[387] Edison Effect exhibited at Elec Exp philadelphia— Meadowcroft get date, applied by Fleming as wireless receiver & also by De Forrest. Fessenden in Lab.  

[391] Wanted change in presdt of E E Light Co, DM & Co wouldn’t went around st & got more proxys than they could get Compromised—

AD (photocopy), NJWOE, Meadowcroft (TAED MM005). ¹Paragraph overwritten with a large “X”. ²Paragraph overwritten with a large “X” and followed by dividing mark. ³Obscured overwritten text. ⁴Illegible. ⁵Paragraph overwritten with large check mark. ⁶Interlined above. ⁷Canceled.

F. NOTES (JUNE 1909)

This notebook includes sixteen pages in an unlabeled section in Edison’s hand relating to the Dyer and Martin biography. These pages are preceded by a memo to Edison from William Meadowcroft dated “June 28/09” stating that these notes had been copied. Eight of its twenty-four items pertain to the period covered by this volume. There is a typed version of the notes in the William H. Meadowcroft Collection at the Edison National Historic Site. The last fifteen pages are a biographical sketch of Edison’s former employee Sigmund Bergmann.
[2] You left out item of finding Morses Diary in a house I rented in Grammacy Park, Certainly this is not uninteresting——

[8] Soon after this shop was started I sent a man named Stewart down to Santiago Chili to put up a Central Station for Electric Lighting Stewart after finishing the station returned to N Y ork with glowing accounts of the Country & an order from Madame Cousino the richest woman in Chili for a complete plant with chandiliers for her palace in the suburbs of Santiago. Stewart gave the order to Bergmann, & the price was to be for the chandiliers alone $7,000. Stewart having no place to go generally managed to stay around Bergmanns place recounting the Emmense wealth of Madame Cousino, and Bergmann kept raising the price of the outfit until Stewart realized that these glowing accounts of wealth was running into money when he kept away & the chandiliers went billed for 17 000; cash on bill of Lading, as Bergmann said he wasnt sure Stewarts mind wasnt affected & he wanted to be safe.

[9] At onetime he was making an immense switchboard for the NY Telephone central station the specifications called for mahogany one day the president called at the shop top to find out what progress was being made, after Explanations Bergmann suggested that it was too bad such that Mahogany should be used with such a beautiful piece of apparatus when for $1000 extra black walnut could be substituted/ The presdt who had been put in his position by infl uences & not knowing nothing of the business ready assented to this proposition—— Bergmann used the inferior walnut at a saving of $1500.

[10] A Jew by the name of Epstein had been in the habit of buying brass chips & turnings from the Lathes & in some way Bergmann found out that he had been cheated so he this hurt his pride & he determined to get even—— One day the Jew appeared & said good morning Mr Bergmann have you any chips today, no said B I have none. Thats strange Mr B said the Jew wont you look. no he wouldnt look he knew he had none. finnally the jew was so persistent that Bergmann called an assis-tant & told him to go & see if had any Chips He returned & reported that they had the fi nest & largest lot they ever had. The Jew went up to the several large boxes piled full of chips & so heavy that he couldn’t lift even one end of a box. Now Mr B said the jew how much for the lot. Epstein said Bergmann you have cheated me and I will no longer sell by the lot but will only sell by the pound. No amount of argument seemed would change Bergmanns determination to sell by the pound
but finally the Jew got up to $250 for the lot & B finally appearing as if disgusted accepted & made the Jew count out the money & said well Epstein goodbye I’ve got to go down to wall st. the Jew and his assistant then attempted to lift the boxes to carry them out but couldn’t & then discovered that calculations as to the quantity had been thrown out because the boxes had all been screwed to the floor & mostly filled with boards with a veneer of brass chips. The Jew was made such a scene that he had to be removed by the police. I met the Jew several days afterward he said he had forgiven Mr. B as he was such a smart business man & the scheme was so ingenious.

[11] One day as a joke I filled 3 or 4 sheets of foolscap with a jumble of figures, & told Bergmann that they were calculations showing the great loss of power from blowing the factory whistle Bergmann thought it real & never after would he permit the whistle to blow—

[12] Next door to this factory was a Parochial Catholic school & every time I walked pass when the children were out they all saluted with the finger to the head, on inquiry I found they thought I was a priest.

[19] At this Laboratory I have had a series of Vacuum pumps worked by Mercury & used for exhausting Experimental Incandescent lamps. The main pipe which was full of Mercury was about 7½ feet from the floor along the length of the pipe were outlets to which thick rubber tubing were connected Each tube to a pump. One day while Experimenting with the Mercury pump my assistant an awkward country boy from a farm on Staten Island who had adenoids in his nose & breathed through his mouth which was always wide open was looking up at this pipe at a small leak of mercury when a Rubber tube came off and probably two pounds of Mercury went into his mouth & down his throat & got out through his system somehow. I had considerable  At In a short time he became salivated & his teeth got loose he went home & shortly his mother appeared in the Laboratory with a horsewhip which she proposed to use on the proprietor I was fortunately absent & she was mollified somehow by my other assistants— I had given the boy considerable Iodide of potassium to prevent salivation but it did no good in this case.

[20] When the first Lamp works was started at Menlo Park one of my experiments seemed to show that hot mercury gave a better vacuum in the lamps than cold mercury I thereupon started to heat the I it—soon all the men got salivated & things looked serious but I found that in mirror factories where Mer-

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cury was used extensively the French govt made the giving of Iodide of potassium compulsory to prevent Salivation. I carried out this idea & made every man take a dose every day but there was great opposition, & hot mercury was finally abandoned

AD (photocopy), NjWOE, Meadowcroft (TAED MM005). ʻInterlined above. ʻObscured overwritten text. ʻʻwasnt effected” interlined above. ʻʻ& mostly filled . . . chips” interlined above. ʻʻhe was such . . . &” interlined above. ʻʻas a joke” interlined above. ʻʻdown his throat” interlined above.