

CAVENDISH, JAN. 1849

HARLOW

They've sent for you! Both of us. The letter states that they want you to come to Boston to see you for themselves. Dr. Bigelow has taken care of all expenses. Oh this is delightful, Phineas! You will finally get an expert's care.

(beat) Of course, the decision is up to you, Phineas. I must admit I remain concerned... about the travel. I don't want to tax you. You haven't been yourself lately.

PHINEAS (offstage)

Nonsense! You told me I was as strong as an ox!

HARLOW

Yes, physically. I don't want to force you to go if your mind is... Mr. Gage?

Phineas has entered from the washroom.
He wears a new, fancy top hat.

PHINEAS

Do you like it?

HARLOW

Do I...

PHINEAS

My new hat. It's silk! I saw it in the window of O'Henry's on Main and had to have it. Bought a new tweed coat and fine pair of shoes as well.

HARLOW

They do look fine. And expensive. Where did you get the money for those, if you don't mind me asking?

PHINEAS

Are they? I don't remember how much they cost. I don't care about that.

HARLOW

Phineas...

PHINEAS

I am going to the city and don't want to wear some damned clodhoppers. I mean to see Boston in style.

HARLOW

I suppose you've earned a bit of extravagance. Phineas, this

trip... I want to warn you. Despite my best efforts I want you to understand that these doctors, these experts, may discover things about you and your mind, that I could not. I may have not healed you... enough. Do you understand what I am saying, Mr. Gage? Phineas?

PHINEAS

What? Yes, fine. So it is settled then. We shall leave in a fortnight. I hope you are as excited as I, Doctor!

HARLOW

Yes, Phinny. It is very exciting.

Phineas lets out a disturbing tribal scream unsettling Harlow.

PHINEAS

Yaaaaaawwlllll!

HARLOW

Goodness sakes, Mr. Gage.

Phineas chuckles to himself in the mirror as the lights fade on him.