

Logan -

Logan Co. Pa.

June 21. '75

Miss Cushman

Nearly my first  
 day-dreams were of becoming  
 an actress — However  
 bred by Methodist parents / my  
 father a minister / soon after  
 these dreams began I was  
 disappointed of the hope by  
 being taught of them or if your  
 Church literature that such  
 people were considered as  
 all aliens from religious  
 society if not from Heaven  
 at least — As young as I

was — so young that I  
 wonder where in the seclusion  
 of our Country life and the  
 meager range of my reading  
 I ever found food for such  
 imagining — this was a sad  
 enlightening for me — after-  
 ward — as dream I must it  
 was of book making — but the  
 reality has been School teaching  
 year after year — a wide  
 field I grant and satisfactory  
 if — but I am —  
 taking much liberty and  
 will hasten to the conclusion  
 — At thirty one I find myself  
 again teaching a district  
 school for a trifle over a  
 dollar per day — out of which  
 board is to be paid — I strove  
 to get out of the bill paying  
 work — at encouraged by

friends (who would not have  
flattered) to spending time  
and money in the study of  
Elocution (under Prof. W. A.  
Chicago) I found myself  
at the end of a year - after  
commencing teaching the same  
receipts about \$300. Expenditure  
at least \$375, and rather  
than to risk the further increase  
- am again teaching district  
schools to strive to make up  
the deficit - interest of the  
same at least - There's  
many reasons for one to strive  
to become what I wish you  
to tell me how to become -  
I pause - my pen hesitating  
to pen what you may  
deem egotism - but I do  
feel and know that I might  
as an actress of Tragedy

left - the load of poverty  
from father sisters and  
brothers and thus not have  
lived in vain - I confess  
beside it all I think I partake  
of the noble ambition of  
minds like your own that  
have made for your -  
profession - friends who  
were enemies and judges  
without mercy -

But I am ignorant of the  
first steps - The only bit of  
tragedy I ever beheld upon the  
stage (and I must confess that  
I imagine more than I witnessed)  
was Mrs Siddons' as Lady Macbeth  
- Miss Cushman Can you  
help me with advice - tell  
me what to study - tell me  
how - I can but believe you  
will pardon this man's one letter

end of your experience  
reach a helping hand —  
to one who knows not where  
else to ask —

I am Yours —  
Emma S. Sitwell  
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