

1-8-1879

Letter from Emma Stebbins, New York City, New York, to Anne Whitney, 1879 January 8

Emma Stebbins

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189. - Jan'y. 8. / 79.

42 went 19th Sts

I am so glad to find you kind by
 New Year greeting - it is good to be remem-
 bered at these times, and also to re-
 member - so I do. I thought this year
 have not been able to express it.
 Birthdays were always sad
 to me, and not have been growing
 more and more so for many years.
 This one seems to have been the
 culmination of sadness, for ever
 invalid, closed his long and weary
 struggle on the 22nd Dec. and as
 funeral left my house on Jan 1st.
 The necessity for so many
 changes as it doubtless did to the
 many who felt only the gladness
 of the hallowed and gracious time.
 These events however long an-
 ticipated, and apparently realized,
 are always nevertheless like
 a lightning blow, and paralyze

especially
 the
 anniversary
 of
 the
 death
 of
 the
 father
 of
 the
 family
 which
 was
 the
 cause
 of
 the
 illness
 of
 the
 mother
 of
 the
 family
 which
 was
 the
 cause
 of
 the
 illness
 of
 the
 father
 of
 the
 family

for the time. A powerful and
vigorous personality cannot be
extinguished, without leaving an
aching void which only time
can fill up. - Sister has come up
and she it with her woman's heroic
persistence - and I am still looking
for the reaction which has so long
filled me with anxiety for her. I
But she is sustained by something
inside of herself - and the angels
find no difficulty in getting near
her, so akin is her atmosphere
to theirs. - I am ashamed to say
I find myself weaker under their
influences of this event. than
she does - I am weak & helpless
where emotional excitements are
concerned - and all the physical
sympathies and sacraunts to
them - This is grievous and dis-
-appointing to me - because I hoped

I was better - and am so earnestly
desirous to make my life useful
and valuable one more. -

you see dear, your suggestion of
"pleasant distractions" in their
"big ponderous vision" does not
yet come into my programme -
I suppose I have had such visions
and now and then a dim ghost
of possibilities in that direction
gives a faint fillet to my thoughts
but so faint that it surprises
me by its changeableness, remind-
ing me only of a former time
never giving much assurance
of better times to come.

I am glad to hear what Mrs. &
Chapman says about the book.
It is much if she had not thought
in it. She seems a strong nature
who could not in herself be con-
-tact with so little. Did you know
that her part of Miss M.'s life

has been better selected in Eng^d.
This I have from private sources
I was grateful to her for the glimpse
she gives us of a great personality
which Miss M. herself failed to do
but to my mind she could have left
much else out, and the book could
have spoken better for itself. - I am
glad you ^{are} doing this statue - I feel
that it can be trusted with you - I
only could wish it were Charlotte
Cushman instead - perhaps you could
not echo that wish. -

No - you never told me about it - I saw
it first in the N.Y. Tribune - I should
like to know how you are treating it
and that reminds me to ask you - if
you have not got a photo of Samuel
Adams to give me? and also to beg
you to remember me whenever you
have one volume of the present and
perhaps you have one of the sketch.
Tell me how you like Ball's Commemorative
and also what you think of this
affair of St. Hosmer. - Miss Clark
is a very able & well known

something which I had never seen before

you proposed that I should be as well as equally
I hope she will be able to clear up the points
the counsel to be given, both of themselves
are the best and best for the new year
of your advice -

overjoyed & with
yours truly
J. P. [unclear]