

(John Hapkins Ltr)  
Parkers'. Boston Mass. Thursday 3<sup>d</sup> Feb. 1876

after all that you have heard dear & valued friend, you will want, on the first occasion possible to me, to see something from my own weak hand - so - though very good for nothing intellectually or physically - I send you off this little word to give you some comfort about me. I am lifting out of my slough slowly but surely. The poor broken down stomach, wh reduced me so low that on the 17<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. I drew together my dear ones & gave them last charges - that I might go as quietly as I desired to go speedily.

But it has pleased the dear God, that I should not pass out by that door at least. - & ever since that day wh seemed a sort of crisis. I have been slowly fighting up, I cannot walk of course as yet, even round my room, though, yesterday I ventured it, - but I sit wrapped up & pillowed in my large chair - & here my friends come & minister to me - li's good angels, bringing me flowers & jellies & soups until I must get well in shits!

My Dr is satisfied beyond words & occasionally whistles as he examines my wounds - which are beginning to cover over with a thin gauze like film signifying skin - he says. There are many parts which cannot cover for some time yet - for the schirrus is so fearfully obstinate, but by the end of Feb'y he hopes I will be able to get out into the air, & then the natural oxygen will help to his "perfect chemism" [chemism]. He certainly believes he is going to cure me. God strengthen his knowledge to this consummation, pray we all - we shall see - Meanwhile as I am able from time to time you shall have from my own hand how I am getting on - ah, if you had seen me on the 17<sup>th</sup> leaving a little word for you - how pale & thin & sick I looked. you would be too happy now to see me as I have been talking to J. F. Fields about Swinburnes book of essays. Have you seen them? ~~Have~~ Now! what he says about



Matthew Arnold's endorsement of the Guerin  
broth & co. - about whom there was a little stir some time ago -  
evangelical writers? I don't think there is a bone left in  
Arnold's body on that score!

Friday 4 Feb. a sleepless night, from the accumulation char-  
acter of the medicine last given for 3 days & which is working  
admirably in other ways - towards healing up my  
wounded back - so the medicine must be stopped - Thus  
the Dr has been hindered all the time with me. To any one else  
a teaspoonful of medicine - to me 10 & then 5 drops - & then  
it has to stop altogether & change. - Ah - my way has been  
much much harder than I anticipated & I should have  
been sleeping with my forefathers now, in the natural progress  
of the malady. & I may be wrong, but it seems to me that  
I have endured as much in this way as I should or could  
have done in the other. God only knows. if he will only make me  
grateful for all the many mercies I do have, in memory  
of all I do & have suffered I shall be surprised at  
myself & human nature. I am very nervous & miserable  
this morning. Tomorrow is my alternate 'good' day & I  
shall be better. I wonder if you would have time to call  
at Mrs. Burnap's N. Calvert St. & tell Lizzie Burnap of  
my report - I believe I am on the mend in every way.  
but ah, God! how long!! I am not able to walk about  
my room yet & have been hoisted to my chair since 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec  
Pretty hard for a quick thoughted spirit?

Your cautato is pretty gorgeous! I think the best thing  
you have done by far. in form. at least. I pray God for  
you - in all ways & for all dear to you. Has Charley your  
house, or is he with you. Miss Stebbins kind love - let  
me hear what you are doing - do you keep quite well? "Tell  
all" like the players to your faithful  
Cushla.