

St Louis, Dec. 8. 1861.

My dear Sir, I have been thinking lately that as the death of McLenny will necessarily devolve a change in our firm, that I would bring it before your mind & Emma's that there may be an opportunity for your coming into it in the organization of a new concern. We have not decided yet when the change will be announced, & it may be deferred for several months, or may take place earlier, as it depends not only on financial, but political relations, which these things we cannot foresee, & must await their development. Indeed the desirability of such a connection & the continuance here of a business which has been 26 years established must depend on the political relations of the State & the Country at large. My own hopes are sanguine, still when I see such a lack of common sense, & common honesty in many in high places, I sometimes almost despair. There is very little good administrative talent at Washington, & if the Government fails to maintain its supremacy it will be because of the deficiency alluded to, & the general corruption of the people.

But to come back to business, if the

When feeling continues to prevail in this
State the opening for business will be good
& it will be conducted chiefly on a cash
basis. Now the question is for you to
decide and whether you will prefer to
continue in Boston & trust to the great
uncertainty of establishing a connection, or
getting any thing remunerative, ^{employment,} and have
a fine climate & pleasant society, or
forego the climate possibly something
of society, & avail of an opening (if it
offers) here, that will perhaps pay quite
enough to enable your family to spend
4 or 5 months of the year if needed for
their health / at the sea side - & at same
time have occupation of both mind &
body. There are many points of
view in which it will become both you
& Emma to look it & you can do so, in
time to be ready for action when the
opportunity offers. I have no doubt
that for the happiness of each of you
employment is essential - You must work
in some sphere & have some matter
to object in life both for your happiness
that of your wife, ~~for~~ Labor is the
ordination of man. I know you desire
to enter upon it & only want a suitable
opportunity. If the opening alludes to

occurs it may afford a chance -

It is not improbable the use of 20 or
25000 of Capital may be quite a means of
your getting a becoming connection, as the
present concern will have lost so
much by the rebellion, & the withdrawal
of Mr McClellan's means, that Capital will
be an object. I bring this subject
to your consideration that you may think
of it, & if you deem it necessary consult
your Aunt. I think however that
beyond her you & Emma had better
say nothing of it to any party whatever
as it all depends on contingencies which
are so uncertain, it is not well
to talk of changes until they are
decided upon. This leaves us all
well - Mary is getting to feel quite at home
& I think is becoming contented with "two
kinds of bread". Love to Emma & wish
her mother joins, I hope she will use her
exercise prudently & carefully

Wm E. C. Cushman
Boston

Very truly yrs
Mary Ann Cury