

(John Haffkins (New))
Newport, June 1st/77

My dear Lavier

Your letter was most welcome and brings good news in the prospect of your restoration, and that you are looking forward again to work and usefulness, - thanks be to Florida and the genial air which have bridged you over, and kept you yet awhile longer with us - we call it afford to spare sweet spirits and sweet singers in these prosaic days.

The winter has been a hard and anxious one for us all, we have had a sick house for months, and these last one-spring months! so called have been worst of all - and we have been much saddened and depressed with small prospect of escape from the hard stony city.

I write to you now from Newport with the solemn sea sounding in my ears night & day - and the solemn thoughts in my mind - excited by every object and association about me! Change of air was thought necessary for me, and Mrs. Cushman came to town for me, and literally carried me off, rather against my will - for I never enjoy leaving duties & cares to others - However, I was on my way to see after my little place at Kenos, and that was needful business, so I came - The visit has been of great good to me in one respect - I brought with me the notes & memo^{da} as far as I had gone - for the book - and have been reading them aloud to Emma and my good and bright friend Mrs. Brinley, and their approval and appreciation has given me a much needed stimulus - which I think may help me to some worthy conclusion - very slowly it must be, and all depending on the physical condition - but I have more hope about myself - and more materials have come in (you see how long

I have had to wait for them) and the prospect is a little better for something being done. We are fixed I think to go to Hyde Park for the summer - unless Mr. Garland's physician orders him elsewhere, and as soon as I can get settled there, I shall hope to go on swimmingly.

Mrs. Cushman begs me to send her kind remembrances to you, and to say she wishes very much you and Mrs. Lavier could come in here and make her a visit during the summer - it would give her great pleasure - I don't of course know the possibilities with you, but I too should be pleased if you could accept the invitation - these delicious sea breezes and this beautiful place may contain just the tonic that you need, and I am certain you should know better, and be in sympathy with those whom she loved best in the world - as I am anxious for her dear sake to draw around them influences which will be good to them, and so gratify her loving spirit. Mrs. Cushman says if at any time you can see your way clear to come - if you will let her know she will arrange with you which time etc. She has kindly invited my boys also to pay her a visit during their holidays, a large addition to the Villa is now in progress, which will enable her to extend these hospitalities.

Hoping this may find you still improving, with warm greetings to Mrs. Lavier
I am ever yours faithfully
E.S.

My address for the summer is not yet definitely fixed but letters sent to my doctor, H. G. Stebbins
50 Exchange Place N.Y. - will reach me -