

(Julius Hopkins Siles)

Lenox, Mass. June 27 [1876 added]

My Dear Friend - I am very glad to get a word from you - the
silence all round the epistolary compass on the subject of our
book - was growing awful, and yet you will think me pusillan-
imious when I say - I was rather relieved by it - for I have
been so utterly miserable that the very thought of responsibility
of any kind, has been too much for me - a few spasmodic
efforts I made to look over some of the letters resulted in
sleepless nights - and such confusion of head, & pain of
heart, that I have been obliged to give it all up until I can
feel better - I have been really in a utterly unfit state for
any work, and although I hope I am getting slowly better
now - I am still compelled to be very cautious how I
indulge myself in any too close application. The trouble is
nervous exhaustion which affects the stomach and the digestion

badly - and through that the head. -

For your sake dear I grieve that this should be so - I
do long so earnestly to be equal to my responsibilities, and
above all to this labour of love which I only can
suitably inaugurate - my constant prayer is that
strength may be given me long enough for this work, and to
see my boys fairly on their way to be made into
capable worthy men - and then I am more than ready to go.

As for Esgood I think he has behaved not only unaccount-
ably but shabbily - there was no understanding that I
should let him know when I got to Lenox - he knew all
my dates & movements perfectly well - that was only
an excuse - besides - he was to let me hear from

him before I left N.Y. & in a day or two he said, I am
afraid they are playing fast & loose for some reason
or other - but why if they do not wish to take the venture

they cannot say no like men - I am at a loss to con-
jecture. I shall be sorry to have you take the expense of
going to Boston, when correspondence is so easy - it is
only saying yes or no - but you must be the best judge.

|| Ned has broken out agreement in sending Mr. Carr
to Osgood - it was to be kept for the present strictly
between ourselves and I especially did not want
any intermeddling of outsiders - but Ned is very
rash and impetuous and we never can hold the
thread of anything wherein he is concerned. I suppose
I ought to have written against to Osgood myself - but
I have been so unwell, at and it really depended
so entirely on him to make his decision & inform
us that I waited - If he will not take it - I shall
be inclined not to push the matter any further for
the present. - I am so unable to write & our materials
are so slow in coming forward - no further word from
England - Mr. Cushman was ill at last accounts.
Mrs. C - is totally unfit to go over her letters.

Will you present me kindly to your wife, I hope
her trip north may restore her - let me hear from
you often - Yours ever faithfully ES.

I am expecting the Boys about the 12 of July

[Envelope]

Sydney Linnis Esq.
Care of R. M. Mc Clellan Esq.
West Chester
(Penn.)