

[18]48

Nov. 11

New Brighton, Pa.

[Lippincott], Sara J[ane](Clarke)

To [James Thomas Fields]

A.L.S. 3p. 4to.

FI 1748

Box 40

New Brighton Pa - Nov 11/43.

My dear friend -

Your "hasty plate" of epistolary soup came duly to hand.

When you are obliged to write me another such a hurried letter, just put it off till the next time. Why, it was no answer to mine at all, at all.

You say nothing to my proposition of publishing my poems separately, or in some way making two volumes out of the concern. I do not quite like the idea of mixing up the poetry with the prose, making the publication an odd affair, "neither fish, flesh nor good red herring". - Suppose you should only publish prose for me, and let the poetry go to some other publisher. - But perhaps this is looking and asking you to look & far ahead.

Be it in spite, your eyes will scarcely be dazzled by the splendid vision if you thrust in the dim distance - afar amid the dark mountains of space.

Well, I suppose that by this time, you have read that poem. I hope

Webster was sober, yet I can but
fear that you, my friend were
intoxicated - with applause - for I
would not insinuate that when
with the Rum:ers you would
do as the Rum:ers do.

Why do you ~~honor~~ me by writing my
name "Lara J. Clarke" - I know that
it is (the J,) is a very respectable
member of the alphabet, but I can
lay claim only to slender and inexpress-
ive J. - "a poor thing, but mine own."

Thanks "not loud but deep" for
your offer of a copy of Holms' New Ed.
You know well my passionate ad-
miration of the Doctw's poetry, which
unlike his medicine, is "not hard to
take." Send the book if possible, to
my friend! And as "one good turn
deserves another", send at the same
time, your own collection of poems
published some time since, and
let my "rejoiced spirit", - and then
a Lady fellow on touch! - and let
my "rejoiced spirit" I say, wander
through the pleasant fields of
Poetry as well as luxuriate in the
beautiful Homes of the Mine - It
is well I had not to utter that from

viva voce, for I could not
have looked in your face afterward.
You could send the books by mail,
to Gallston Pa - or by Adams'
express, to me, care of J. M.
Horton, Pittsburgh -

Pardon the nonsense of this
letter - In great haste
Sincerely yours
Lara J. Clarke.