

(John Hepburn Ure)

Leicester, Mass. July 6/76

My dear Samier -

I was a good deal surprised at the reception of your letter telling me you had concluded the negotiation with Mr. Osgood and left No. 4. after telling me you would await my decision in the matter. I concluded you could not have received my letter in which I told you I could not decide without reference to Mr. & Mrs. Cushman - I have since learned that a Telegram was sent you on Saturday night - accepting the terms but this I presume you must also have missed. Of course I know how difficult it is to arrange such a thing under our conditions - all the parties separated so far from each other - and delay so very inconvenient for you - perhaps it is all for the best that you acted on your own responsibility - since there can be no object in further deliberation if the terms are considered fair - My doubts and fears have no place to come in where real business is concerned - and yet the conclusion gave me a nervous crisis - from which I do not recover. I cannot conceive the possibility of getting up this book without worthily in the time appointed - unless the materials come forward much more freely than they have yet done - to say nothing of my present inability to aid you much. I think I have told you already that I have little or nothing - & what I have is of a most desultory

character. I can let you know in very few words what I have here. I have about a dozen letters from Miss C. to her Mother - from 1844-1845. (about a year) written on her first arrival in England - covering the period of her first success. - Then I have a little vol. containing a diary of the same period - not longer - much of it written in pencil - so fine and pale that I can scarcely decipher it even with a magnifying glass. I have also a package of letters written to her by an early lover - to whom I think she was engaged - these I have not looked over - but I do not think they contain much that is suitable to our purpose. This is all that Mrs. Cushman has sent me, these I could sift in a very short time except the Diary which would be difficult - it contains mere manoranda - the parts she acts - the names of people she sees etc. - I do not know what other material Mrs. C. has beside her own letters from Miss C. - which are numerous - but all written from Rome - none covering the English ground - which was before Mrs. C.'s time. - Her own letters - Mrs. C. is unable at present to look over - and she does not feel inclined to give them out of her hands until she does - naturally I have asked her to let me have all she can - but I fear she is

not in condition now to do anything about it. - I do not see how these obstacles are to be met - do you? There is a scrapbook containing newspaper notices of his acting in England at Villa Cushman - had not this better be sent to you?

Of course, I should be glad to see you and talk over your plans and ideas - but unless I am much better in health and spirits, I can aid you very little - and I may as well say now, in view of possible publication on the part of Osgood, that unless I am able to aid very materially I shall not be willing to allow my name to be used - you will have all the labour and it is fit you have all the credit. At any rate I should not be willing to appear on the title page as anything but compiler or editor or whatever other name you choose. Perhaps Osgood might object to this - as he seemed to think my name might be of some value - but I can't help it - I want him to understand that I am not to be committed in any manner to authorship where I have no claim. - Will you see to this for me, without delay in case he wishes to begin advertising. - It may be known that I have some interest in the book - but it must not be put forth as my production.

You must pardon all this worrying - sent of previsions on my part - if you knew how really weak and miserable I am - you would not be surprised at it. I have many cares on my mind just now - everything weighs heavily upon me - and the sense of inability oppresses me - I am expecting my two boys from Rome on the 11<sup>th</sup> and am much disturbed that I cannot go to the city to meet them - and cannot see my way at all clear at present to go with them as I earnestly desire, to see them established at Cornell. - All this makes me feel more & more deeply the loss of my helper & comforter who always stood between me & care of all kinds - this world is a desert for me without him - and I don't see how I can stay in it.

Let me hear from you soon  
Ever yours faithfully,  
E.S.

{Envelope:}  
Sydney James Esq.  
Westchester Penn.