

(Johns Hopkins Univ.)

37 West 37th St., New York

March 1st [1876 "add"]

[Black border.]

My dear Ladies,

It is very hard for me to write yet, though I struggle with all my strength to make some acknowledgment of the kindness and sympathy which meet me at every turn - so many hearts have been wounded by our great loss - so many souls yearn to his memory, and cling to all that remains of him - even to me, poor, weak, tottering, broken reed that I am! But I must not indulge in a selfish inertia, or fall down into the dull flat of despondency, while there is duty to be done, such is not the glorious example she set us - and my life now if it is spared ~~must~~ be given to do his will - even more than before - to hold to his spirit as I have ever done to his dear presence, and so keep his influence about me. I believe that she will be with me - she held to me with undying love in life, and I know - I know, she ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~with~~ and loves me still - great, strong, glorified, ^{more} able to help and comfort than ever! Yes dear - it is pitiful - it is almost unendurable, this terrible sense of separation and loneliness - I don't know how I bear it, I walk as in a dream, utterly unable to realize the great and irremediable loss. but I am bearing up better than I could have believed possible - I always thought I must go when she did - but now, since I do live on, I believe that there is still work for me to do here - needs to be met, thank God! and so I shall not grieve as one without hope - but go steadfastly on, in whatever ~~so~~ ^{so} good word or work, there is for me to do - believing that therein I shall best please her.

You know that all ^{whom} she loved and helped must be dear to me, and wherein soever I in my lesser degree can carry on his work - there my whole heart will be given - Believe that to you also, ^{she} will come with strengthening and help - we will strive to make our lives worthy of his. As soon as I can gather my thoughts together, I must consult with you about that memoir which must be written by those who loved him, but unworthy and careless hands undertake it, - I have a long letter from H.H. on the subject - she wants to do it, and offers to give all the coming summer to the work - but I could not accept her as the right one for the task - even if I had not had that conversation with my dear one about you - I know she never accepted Mrs. Hunt fully - neither could I - with all his ability and real power - there is something which is not the ring of the true metal -

[Helen Hunt?]

The discussion of the question seems to me premature - as yet -
everything is chaos about me - I cannot even think - and
this pursuing on [in] of material things and interests revolts
me - Mrs. H. says 'of course the book ought to come out in the au-
tumn' - this struck me like fog-making - and I don't like it.
to my mind whatever is written ^{out} ~~by~~ her should be done with care & love
not gotten up to meet an excited market or a frantic demand.
However I am not equal yet to the thought of it even - I have
not been at all well since my return to N. Y. I hear daily
from Newport - they are well but inexpressibly sad - poor
Emma seems to be oppressed with a feeling almost like remorse
that life can go on & ~~carry~~ ^{carry} her along into it under
our sad conditions. No I do not know of any special message
to you; On that sad 4th of July - when she talked to
her nephew & others a great deal about her possible death
and made some testamentary dispositions - I was not present
[I never could bear the subject, and she spared me the pain -
I will make enquiries & see if the others know anything -
all she ever said to me, was in reference to the Memoir and that
was only in answer to my suggestion - she wanted me to
do it - the darling always believed I could do anything I
willed to do - but I was never anything but through her -
she bore me up in her strong will & made me whatever
I was - There was very little said - and there has been very
little done - for she was always singularly indifferent about
it - If she had recovered we were to make a business of it.

Let me hear from you whenever you can - and if it is
possible for you to find in me some faint image and
reflection of the gloup that is gone - as having lived
so long in such close communion with it - Command
me - you will always find me,
faith-fully yours,
E.S.

[E.S. here seems to have more of the quality of C. C. than in earlier letters.]