

(John Hopkins Univ)  
Lenox, June 29/76

My ~~Dear~~ <sup>Dear</sup> Saml I lose not a moment in acknowledging  
your letter (just received) though I find it a very difficult  
thing to answer it with as prompt a decision as you  
seem to expect. & think possible. I do not feel that  
I can settle so momentous a question, without at least  
consulting Mr. & Mrs. Cushman, who are greatly interested in it -  
morally as we are. Although I <sup>know</sup> they would be  
influenced by our conclusions, I must at least ask them  
before deciding. - I shall therefore send your letter on to  
them by Sallis, who goes tomorrow, with an urgent request  
for an immediate response, and as soon as I receive it I  
will Telegraph you - yes or no.

I wrote you to West Chester - which letter I suppose you  
have missed by your movement to Boston - in it I told  
you how I am feeling - how little - (nothing as yet) I have  
had it in my power to do - how very little my health is  
to be depended upon - and how much I feel the necessity  
for a long period of repose & entire recuperation of mind and  
body - before I could undertake anything so important as I feel  
this to be - but this feeling is absolutely with reference to  
the producing of a worthy book, and not a thought regarding  
the money part of it, about which (except for your sake) I am  
perfectly indifferent - Therefore it is not on that score I  
should hesitate, if the book is what it ought to be - and  
might be with time and care - it would pay even on Mr.  
Osgood's hard terms, for I do think he hedges himself well,  
but - consider well, my dear fellow - before we commit ourselves  
inevitably, the desultory nature of your materials, the failure  
of any response as yet from England - the most important phase  
of his career - and my ignorance whether what materials we have of  
other periods will yield what we require. -

You do seem to feel disturbed about this, and perhaps you may be more  
right than I am - the result of a work of art comes in the doing of  
it, and you may have it clear / away in your own mind to feel no  
misgivings - but I cannot understand anyone not foreseeing  
difficulties - I am hedged about with them, and so have dreaded,  
and do dread any precipitation - I rejoice to have to be a drag  
upon the wings of your inspiration - if this noble task inspires  
you as I hope it does. If you can see your way clear to a  
good true result - written of Her & of yourself, and are  
willing to run the chances coincident to a very laws and  
weak coddler - if Mr Taylor [Tayler] [Zayler] thinks the  
bargain as good a one as we could make - & if Emma & Ned  
are satisfied (pardon all these troublesome ifs) - Why -  
all I can say is - I will aid you all I can - the spirit  
is willing - but the flesh is weak - However if we once  
put our shoulders to the wheel, we will not look back -  
I write in haste - sorry that I cannot be more decided, but  
I think you will see that I could not be otherwise -

Yours ever faithfully  
ES.

If it is inconvenient for you to remain in NY. ~~to~~  
send me a postal card - & I will send you a  
Telegram wherever you may be - or perhaps I had  
better ~~ask~~ ask Ned to send you one from Newport without  
the delay of communicating with me - I will write  
to him myself about it.

[Address on envelope]

~~Sidney Lauer Esq  
Westminster Hotel  
New York~~

Sidney Lauer  
Care of R. W. Mellanby  
Westchester  
Pa.

[Mr constitutional (?) indecision  
a contrast to C. C. - made  
it easy for her to follow  
C. C.'s decision.]  
JL.