

[1875 add.] (John Hopkins Ser.)

Villa Cushman, Newport R. I.

June 22^d

My dear Mr. Francis, —
Your letter to Miss Cushman just received, fills me with concern
and regret — that you should be looking for a letter from me,
which you will not find. —

I am not good at excuses or apologies, and in epistolary
matters I have had to make so many, that I have come now
to be absolutely weak on the subject, and shrink from a too long
unanswered letter, as from a physical pain. — You will pardon me
I know, for you have the poet's gift of insight and sympathy,
and you will feel, without my telling you all the reasons which
make writing at times too painful a subject to ask. — I intended all
along to write you, my intentions are the best part of me, as of
most of us — but dear Miss Cushman, came back from her Western
tour, so much more ill than ^{ever} she ~~was~~ has been, that my anxiety
for her completely absorbed me from everything else, and your
~~own~~ with many others were neglected. —

We heard with deep regret from Mrs. Peacock that you had
been so ill, and with satisfaction that your wife had gone to you.
Now we are very glad to know that you have completed your work
and are coming North again — for the climate of Florida — can
hardly be good for you at this season of the year. —

Before I go further let me relieve your anxiety about Miss C. — by
telling you that we think she is now gaining ground again — under
the pleasant influences of her home & rest in this delicious air,
visits from her Boston physician — and good Dr. Rippi have reas-
sured us, and we are able to take a little heart and hope again.

Now for that matter of which I wrote you — after the reception
of your letter I wrote to my Brother — for it is my Brother Mr.
Henry B. Stebbins of New York who is the party interested
in this matter, and received from him an answer, that he was
very pleased with my suggestions, and that he would be glad if your
interest in this scheme whenever any positive move should be
made, that as yet nothing decided had been done. — as yet
the Trustees hardly see clearly what sort of a thing they have
to administer upon — but he thinks it will be all right in time.
The disposition is there — the determination is there and the money
is there, and the thing will begin to move ere long — as soon

he says, as it does - as soon as I can be satisfied that the first
move is made - which I should think now a few days ^{now} will
determine - I will be glad to make Mr. Davies acquaintance.
Upon this, as I see by your letter, you expect soon to be in Phil^a
New York, I propose to enclose you a note of introduction to
my Brother - He is one of the 'City Fathers' and obliged to be in
town a good part of the time attending to public affairs -
while his family disport themselves in the country - he is a
kind warmhearted genial fellow - and has always been a
good deal identified with musical affairs in N. Y., at the
same time he is ~~not~~ profound^{er} & ethical, his life has
been too practical for that - but he may be of service to you -
and so I commend you to him, and hope you may be his

Miss Cushman speaks of enclosing a word for you in this.
but she may not be able to do so - and I had better
answer your questions about her. she is fixed here - for
the present. whether she goes to Lenox or not depends on
her condition. I am going there early next week - to look into
my affairs and get the place in readiness for her. I hope
she may be able to leave here in Augt. for this place does
not agree with her there - & Lenox does - but all things seem very
uncertain to me now - and I have not much courage to look
forward or wish for the future. - However you may be sure
of a welcome at Lenox - if my house is open - with or without a
dress coat - in fact my establishment is rather founded (I
hope to keep it so) upon the possibility of doing without dress
coats altogether - 'give fools their silks - & knaves their wine -
the man's the gourd for a' that.' The moment our movements

are finally decided, you shall hear. Meantime keep us posted as to
your whereabouts.

We have had great pleasure out of the Symphony, which delights
all who are capable of appreciating it - You ^{have} a real friend here in
Mrs. Calvert - who is enthusiastic about you - & heartily desires to
see you - did you see a very appreciative notice he wrote for 'the
golden age'? - I am anxious to get this letter to you without
delay - so I have written in haste - all send kindest greetings
to you & hope that your return to the North may benefit your health -
Believe me always faithfully yours, Edwin Stubbs