

Boston Christmas Day.

My dear Miss Cushman,

Your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> reached me yesterday. I was quite pained & disappointed by its tone as far as it concerned yourself. What on earth can have come over W<sup>m</sup> Macready's mind to make him less satisfied with you? He spoke of you to me on several occasions in terms the most flattering. Are you not yourself perhaps tinged by the sensitiveness you describe (you give it harsher name, - but that is the true one) as common to the profession? "Beware of -" is hardly, for I am sure you are above

its reach, but of over anxiety to please  
those whom the ardour of your temperament  
leads you to over estimate.

You talk of quitting the profession  
in a year. I expect to see you stand  
very high in it indeed by that time. You  
must neither write, nor speak, nor  
think in the mood that beset you  
three days ago. I have no doubt the  
cloud has passed over, and that the fine  
sunshine & bracing air of this very  
day are warming and animating you  
to the — top of your bent. (I wanted  
two or three words to finish the sentence  
as usual found them in Shakespeare)

Am I to understand that you do not  
go further south with Macready? I hope  
~~not~~ for your sake, <sup>that I am just trying to understand you.</sup> but at any rate I shall  
consider it a good wind that blows you this way.  
I hope it may be in my power to go over to Providence  
one day next week, when you talk & see  
you ash — but there is a matter of business

now going on here which occupies me <sup>so</sup>  
entirely & will do so for a fortnight  
or more of next month, that I fear I  
cannot be able to get away for a day.  
In case I cannot go I must hope that you  
will run over here, and I shall be too happy  
if my advice can be of worth enough to repay  
you for the trouble of consulting me.

Now as regards Ben's paper, I can  
only refer to my former letter - if you have  
perused it. My wish was, & is that Mr.  
Maeready should read it, if you continue to

like it & that you still think  
it likely that he would like it.

It was of course immaterial  
to me whether to read it at New York  
or Philadelphia or elsewhere. And I had  
no notion whatever of having it reprinted,  
until it was decided that it was or was not  
to be reprinted - for my letter clearly expressed  
(or meant to do so) that I would make any  
alterations or additions that might be  
suggested by Mr Maeready. The matter  
therefore stands just as it did a month  
ago. If you choose to take upon yourself  
to send the play to Mr Maeready to read,

I shall be very glad that he reads it & gives  
his opinion about acting or not acting it -  
but it must be clearly understood that his  
taking this trouble (if it is any trouble to him)  
is not to be considered in the light of any  
compliment paid to me. So the matter rests  
I send you a copy of the New

Miss Charlotte Cushman  
Philadelphia  
Pa.

of September 30<sup>th</sup>  
York "Album" which contains something about  
in my former capacity as a literary man. (Name  
find the paper.) Vienna seems to have been ravishing us all  
here. men women & children. I have heard  
the best violin players in the world, & they are beyond  
all doubt the best among the best.  
many kind regards to your mother & sister. I  
waiting for your next letter of advice, ever faithfully