

(John Hopkins etc.)

Hyde Park, N.Y. - May 11th 1876

My Dear Lavinia - I have been looking with anxiety for news of you - and fear from your not writing as you promised - you must have been - perhaps are still - ill, you seemed so far from well when I last saw you - I have been very poorly myself, and am still weak, from a succession of bad colds and the general low and depressed condition of mind and body. Still this could not have prevented my writing, if I had not felt uncertain of your whereabouts - I have so far a query, that I had forgotten your Southern address, and it has only been by looking back among your letters that I am reminded of it. - Mr. Cushman returned from St. Louis about two weeks since - and Mrs. C. being also in New York we talked over all the possibilities regarding the book arriving at the conclusion that it was not worth while to send out especially to England for material, as he thinks whatever there is there, can be gathered for us by those on the spot. I have already written to several friends there for this purpose. We also decided that I should write to the Publishers and see what they would be inclined to do. I began with Osgood and Co. - and had promised them they should have the first chance. I took the whole matter on my own shoulders and plainly said I was not prepared to meet any pecuniary outlay in advance. If they were willing to enter into negotiations - it would be necessary for them to make all the disbursements - and especially to meet all your expenses - while you were engaged upon the work. To this letter I have as yet received no answer, I thought I would hear what they had to say before applying elsewhere - from their delay, I presume they are considering the proposition. I told them we could not promise the book for any special time - was indeed to be in a hurry with it - as materials had yet to be gathered together, etc. as soon as I hear from them I will let you know the

