

Gales Hopkins Feb 1
Lenox, July 27/36

My dear Laines -

I did not think it necessary to send Mr. Osgood any answer, or to refer further to the matter, until I could do so with some assurance of my ability to meet the requirements of the contract. I simply asked for time to lie on the oars, until I could feel better - and see my way more clearly; to which proposition he very promptly acceded.

If you reflect you will see that your proposition, puts the whole question again exactly where it was before. If you go on under the terms - we are committed to the book - to the publishers and to the public - and that is just what I have felt it imperatively necessary to postpone - I am heartily grieved that this is so, because I wish most earnestly to reconcile your needs with my own if possible, but with the discouragements & labors under - I cannot in justice to the publishers - and to the dead and sacred memory go on. -

Even Mrs. Cushman - to whose voluminous correspondence with her Aunt I trusted for much help - writes me now that as far as she has been able to go - the letters are so purely personal & private - that she cannot find anything suitable for the public - and she could not think of putting them into any other hands - My own letters are all of a very recent period - when we left Rome - I destroyed quantities of letters - not being able to carry them about with me - and not then realizing their prospective value, but even these were of the same personal character, which requires very careful gleaning - Under such conditions, the work seems to me more & more one which requires time to shape it into anything suitable and worthy, and I could not be content with anything else - In a life of Miss C. - the public will want facts more than anything else, and facts we have not got. There is therefore nothing for it - but a wait. I am sorry to hear you have not been well. I trust the beneficent change in the temperature - may help you. - I

am myself a shade better - but good for very little.

Yours ever faithfully E.S.

You know how ready I shall be

to serve you in any way I can. [Address: West Chester, Penn]

Hyde Park. Sept 4/76

My dear Sam - I have left your letter too long unacknowledged - but you have been only the word on my mind. You cannot believe it is easy for me not to trouble my mind about a matter where my action has been the ~~discomfiting~~ disadvantage of a friend -

A letter from Osgood & Co. - containing a copy of your note to them, and their answer, informs me that you have rescinded the contract - I cannot wonder at it - and yet I regret it, because all I asked for was postponement - and that they were quite willing to grant. They have behaved well in the matter - and are still anxious to have the publication of the book, whenever it may be ready. You may not credit me, but I do still hope to have the book prepared - only it must be done with deliberation. And I must see my way clear before me - and I must feel stronger & better.

With regard to the pecuniary matter, I am making and shall make every effort in my power to reimburse you - this has been one cause of my delay in writing -

It grieves me much to know you have been ill - I trust this will find you better - the summer has been a fearfully trying one - I thought I should not get through it.

I am now about starting with my boys for Ithaca to place them at the University - and after that my mind will be much relieved. I hear no news yet from Newport. there is unaccountable delay and we are all very anxious.

My sisters send their best regards -

Yours ever faithfully E.S.

We are returning to N.Y. toward the end of Sept.

address not yet fixed - as we are leaving No. 37 - West 37th St. - I will let you know what spot we fix upon.

Envelope: addressed to West Chester, Penn -

Forwarded to 1921 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa.