

(Johns Hopkins Univ.)

W. V. Dec. 21, 1880

20. Wth 16th St

My dear Lavier

I have just received your letter, and am glad and yet sorry to hear from you. Glad, that the long silence is broken, and very sorry to know that it has been illness as well as pressure of work which has caused it. I thought from seeing the announcements of your books in the papers, that you were perhaps conquering your ailment, and in better health. —

11 With regard to the sum of money which you wish to repay me — you will pardon me, if I decidedly refuse to receive it — at least I think you will when you hear my reasons. I never looked upon it as a loan, but always as a small — very small, compensation to you

for the trouble and expense, to which you were subjected — at the time I was compelled to disappoint you about the Book. — I think when you reflect upon it — you will see that it was no more than justice — and will not subject me to positive pain by returning it to me.

— Do not let any question of pride step in between us, I have always had the truest regard for you — for her sake, as well as your own, and I am sure you will not wound me by refusing me this favour. I hope earnestly you may be better when this reaches you — I should like to hear how you are getting on. If you do not feel able to write, perhaps your wife will kindly do so. — With my best wishes — and sympathy for her I am always

Your faithful friend,
Emma Stebbins

I am in better health than I have been
for a long time, and ^{even} able to work a
little, which is a great pleasure to me.