

3-24-1874

Letter from Emma Stebbins, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Anne Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, 1874 March 24

Emma Stebbins

Wellesley College Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence

Recommended Citation

Stebbins, Emma and Wellesley College Archives, "Letter from Emma Stebbins, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Anne Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, 1874 March 24" (1874). *Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence*. 2009.
https://repository.wellesley.edu/whitney_correspondence/2009

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4) at Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers of Anne Whitney (MSS.4): Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Wellesley College Digital Scholarship and Archive. For more information, please contact ir@wellesley.edu.

Letters

Miss Anne Whitney

no 32. West Cedar St.,

Boston.

Mass^{ts}



5
Lapierre House. Phil^a.

March 24.

[1874]

My Dear Friend -

I am writing to you on my back - the very first moment that I have felt equal to the business of life - since the reception of your letter - all my previous epistolary & other - have been suspended for the time being - but I have never forgotten you or your letter for a moment - & many of my weary hours have been occupied with speculations upon the artistic suggestions it contains - albeit rather sick ones and hardly of a kind to throw much light upon the high theme. I fear it will be a good while yet before I shall be equal

to any such discussion - for then
even if I ~~could~~ had been - for
the mind ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~body~~ ^{body} - I ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~best~~ ^{best} ~~estate~~ ^{estate}
I was little capable of giving
a reason for the truth that was
in me - Since I wrote you last
I have been very ill - after my
return to Hydepark - and my
sister had gone to the City - for
his little out - came news of
Mrs. Cushman's very serious
illness in Balt^e. I could not
leave to go to her - and I was
miserably uneasy and anxious
so under the double strain,
I succumbed once more, much
as I did in Boston - only not
to get up again so soon - un-

intimately we have two good homes -
fraternal advice at Hyde Park - and
I run on too long without help -
at last obliged to take my life in
my hands and get on to Phil: where
Mrs C. was imploring me to come -
My sister Mrs Fleming came after
me - and here under the care of
our good Dr Lippe - I feel that I am
at last slowly lifting up again -
still very weak - & much pulled
down - but I am aroused - & I begin
to believe the assurance - that I
am not going off the handle quite
yet - I think often of you - and
your man - am glad I got that
little glimpse of you & him which
enables me to picture you to my-
self - I fancy him getting on
his clothing piece by piece -
but I want to know how you

are satisfied with your progress
I think it will end in your going
abroad with him yourself. An
Artist ought to take the easiest
course possible - otherwise the
labour of mind & body would be
too severe - If there is any divine
gift - all the material things should
be made as easy as possible - -
about Art in this country - well
I am not equal to such a theme
but before I was taken ill I was
much pleased in reading James's
book on Art - do you know them
if not they are well worth reading -
he seems to me to go to the root of the
matter more clearly & logically than
any one else - & traces what we call
Art from its beginning all through
its career, entwined with the
growth of nations - flourishing while

They flourish - that is while they
have any fundment. of nobleness
& truth to give nourishment to this
consummate flower - and when
they have no longer - still adorning
& glorifying them - as you have seen
a beautiful vine clotting the naked
limbs of an exhausted & decaying tree.
There are a series of ^{these} books on Art
small volumes - one The Philosophy
of Art - another on Greek Art - another
on Art in the Netherlands - and
another the Ideal in Art - I can
swear - even if you don't agree
with his conclusions - you cannot
fail to find much that will give
you pleasure - - -
We hear daily from Hyde Park
where all goes on in the same
tweary routine - March has been

perfectly precious there - and
it seems such a fortunate chance
that I got away just as I did.
Both for my own sake & theirs, who
must bear the double anxiety,
now there seems to be no choice
for me - but to take care of myself
and get well enough to let my
sister return home - Miss C
goes to work - for a week
in about ten days from now
and if my Dr consents I go
with her - after a week there
she goes to Richmond & I return
here for another week - then
we get back to N.Y. - when she

has a series of readings and
then the season of work is over
and we will do whatever seems
best for us -

Let me hear from you soon
and believe me always
affectionately yours
Ed.

My love to Miss Manning
if she is with you -