

B

Friday. March. 16th /56.

My dear Miss Cushman.

I have been deeply offended by certain statements which have been made by your friend Miss Hayes regarding me, and of which you know I am acquainted.

I have written to her I trust, courteously, but emphatically denying what she has said. It is my wish to avoid any quarrel with your friend, and for this reason I have written with very moderation:

but I must express to you how
intensely aggrieved I feel.

I have never acted towards you
and in your house with the
frankness & outspoken manner
with A. I wish to deal with those
I like. I never before in my life
did to regret this; but I confess
I have now experienced an outrage
A. I feel doubly because an
innocent lady has had thoughts
thrust upon her mind of which
— that even your opinion may be —
I, in my very soul believe her as
unconscious as I am myself.

In myself. I say at once to you

that I do highly & sincerely regard you.

It would cost me a deep pang
to watch the triumph of what I
believe to be a scheme to end
our friendship: but knowing me
as you now do - however much
you may in any thing think my
manner unguarded, (as I know
it may be), if you attribute this
to malice of mind - to wickedness
of thought - or intent, you
firmly dishonour me.

There is always in this world a
road & an unkind way of acting.

I am unused to have my conduct
perverted; & to have people

perhaps, never in any thing

exist solely in the tortuous
perverness of their own minds,
and it would vitally delight me
for you & others to unsee them.

I sincerely believe your own unbiased
and unprejudiced mind never for
a moment would have conceived.

However, be that as it may, I
only feel that I have been grossly
wronged, & I cannot disguise this
from you; & in real sadness
& sorrow I beg you to believe me

Yours most faithfully

J. H. Billow