

Seven Oaks - Kent. ^{is my residence}

Feb 6 - 1844 -

Dear Madam - ^{Slaves & Abeying} South West

Your letter of January 7th -
 reached me here two days
 ago. I am obliged for ^{the}
 kind & considerate manner
 in wh. you write - I have
 frequently heard of you both
 from Mr. & Mrs. Dilglue. So you
 are no stranger to me. —

With regard to my letters -
 it is always startling to
 be suddenly confronted
 with oneself of more than
 thirty years ago - things
 & people might be casually
 mentioned in a way that one

w^d not now speak of them.
but certainly there were no
secrets - at least I know of none
If there is any thing in those
old letters wh^{ch} w^d be of service
Upon I can have no objection
to their doing that service
& I feel assured of your faith
& honour - Still I w^d like
to know what it is that
you desire to put in print
& if you c^d get those
portions or passages copied
wh^{ch} you desire done - I w^d
let me see them - they
w^d bring to my mind many
now forgotten ~~circumstances~~
& I c^d give you a more perfect

account of those early days
of Miss Cushman's sojourn
in England - I will however
tell you now as much as
I can recollect - but I cannot
even remember the exact
year - I think it w^d be 1846
or 1847 - but it was very short
(a few weeks indeed) after she
arrived in England for the
first time. ^{& dramatist} Mr. Howard
the poet, wrote some about her
& gave her a letter to me in
Manchester where I then
resided with my two youngest
brothers. She came - she was
alone except for Sally her
faithful maid - who I hope
is still alive - if so I beg
she remembered her kindly.
I suppose Miss Cushman

was not handsome - but the
beautiful true & firm grey
eyes - gave one the impression
of beauty - & supplied the lack
of it - if it were lacking; -
to me she always looked
beautiful.. Her voice too
was true & real, like herself,
& of a tone that was very
pleasant to the ear. - She
conveyed the impression of
~~protection~~ protection &
strength - In those days
she had not begun the
fight & struggle of her
professional career in
England. She had appeared
in London in the Milman
Fazio. as Bianca &

had made a certain
impression wh. promised
her future success. —

She told me herself about
her first appearance. —

She had come to England
with slender means & a
certain reputation acquired
in America. but she was
alone & without friends to
help her or to back her up.

She told me how ill & anxious
she was. & apparently quite
unfit to act that first night.

The first act went without
any marked effect. &

Sally had to comfort her
in her dressing room by

& respect. 3
favourable
an actress
of terms from
When her
joined her
one difficult
- her sister
story in her
ment - her sister
ty was not much
- but was always
engagements. —

Her mother had the faculty of
being always discontented
& Miss Cushman had much
to hear from her. — The younger
daughter Susan was her favourite
Miss Cushman's career
became a hard battle. a hard

practical observations on
the drama itself & where
the strong effect began.
She went on again - respect
& determined - & the success
from that instant to the
end was secured, - & the
applause told her she
had the audience under
her spell. - She went home
where lodgings, - not comfortable
ones, - & then the rebellion
came. She felt miserable
& lonely - and she cried
herself sick. & then Sally
brought her a mutton chop
she had cooked herself - &
made her eat it - & then

Miss Cushman - I wrote a
long letter to my mother
& went to bed. I felt no
fear but what I sh^d. get
on ~~in some way~~ - She told me
all this one afternoon when
she c^d. be quiet. - I had come
to be with me for a few hours.
It was only there, at that
Commencement of her career,
that she had leisure to be quiet
& c^d. talk out of her heart.
She told me about her early
life after her father's death,
how the family in great
measure depended on her.
She had been previous with
Clara Fisher (her husband
(I forget her married name) she
had then a magnificent

& respect. 3
a favourable
an actress
good terms from
When her
she joined her
more difficult
- her sister
story in her
ment - her sister
they was not much
- but was always
her engagements.

Her mother had the faculty of
being always discontented
& Miss Cushman had much
to hear from her. - The younger
daughter Susan was ^{the} favourite
Miss Cushman's career
became a hard battle - a hard

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contracts, but she fell ill
& it left her entirely - & it was
as tho' there were nothing
she would left that she could
do - then she went on the
stage - dressed - to help her father
& she increased her salary
copying out the ~~different~~
"lengths" of different pieces
for the use of the persons
for the characters. She worked
very hard - & learned her business
by practice. - She acted with
success when he was in
America & I believe he
encouraged her to come to England
tho' they were never great
friends. -

In Manchester she made
many friends - quiet domestic
people who regarded her

with affection & respect. 3
& she made a favourable
impression as an actress
& obtained good terms from
the Manager. When her
sister & mother joined her
she had a more difficult
load to carry - ~~her sister~~
she was very strong in her
family attachment - her sister
tho' very pretty was not much
of an actress - but was always
included in her engagements. -
Her mother had the faculty of
being always discontented
& Miss Cushman had much
to bear from her. - The younger
daughter Susan was ^{her} favourite
Miss Cushman's career
became a hard battle - a hard

contracts, but she fell ill
& it left her entire. & it
is tho' there were nothing
the world left that she
do - then she went on the
stage - drugged - to help her
& she increased her salary
copying out

"lengths" of differ
for the use of
for the character
very hard. &
by practice. -
Practically when
America & she
encouraged her
tho' they were
friends. -

In Manchester
many friends
people who re

When fight for place name.
She was noble, generous, &
gave help to all who needed
it. - & she had not the rest
& peace with her own family
wh. she deserved; - and the
turmoil & strife of those years
told on her in every way.
If she had left journals or
other letters - the traces of that
strife for fortune wd have
appeared - she had many
friends who loved & respected
her - but no one to rest upon
& no inner citadel to wh. she
might retreat. - she had to
fight every inch of her way
with her own hand - some

Can only hope that few of the
women who are now seeking
careers & employment will
have so hard a life. -
As she said once to me herself
= she tried always to keep her
prow set towards good. -
& I feel sure that ^{since} "unlaid the
whole of her life" -

~~That left~~ We lost sight
of each other as was only
natural in lines wh. lay in
such different places. When
she was ill the last year she
was in England I wrote to her
but she was too ill to do me.
Then came her apparent
recovery and then - the unexpected
end when all her friends
had begun to hope ^{all danger} ~~was over~~.

contracts. but she fell ill
& it left her entirely. & it seems
as tho' there were nothing in
the world left that she could
do - then she went on the
stage - drugged - to help her
& she increased her salary

copying out
"lengths" of dialogue
for the use of
for the character
very hard. &
by practice. -
Practically adhe
America & I
encouraged her
tho' they were
friends. -

In Manchester
many friends
people who

had passed of her acting
in some of her character
I believe a kind of
"Mey Merrilies" an
that strange silent
into the front of the stage
wh was her entrance on it
can never be forgotten. nor
the tones of her voice. ~~but~~
wh seemed to come from another
world. - Madame Vestris once told
her. that "Mey Merrilies had made
her turn cold" She says she
crooned in the part. was
exactly ~~what~~ Mey Merrilies
wh had given it. I suspect
no other person & no acting
Indeed all her character
were singular true ^{they never}
seemed to display herself in
any way.

I remember her Dr. Hall's 4
in the "Stranger" she seemed
to absorb & consume all the
false sentiment. The intellectual
pizziness of the "Stranger"
and the manly sentimentality
of the whole piece - and to
elicit only the ~~best~~ real
suffering of the character,
& the ^{tragedy} truth that nothing
can undo deeds once done.
It was I think ~~her best~~
the character ^{in which she} that most
impressed me - I saw the
first performance of her
Romeo - whatever may
be said against ^{a woman taking the part} the fact
it was a most effective performance

resolute &
void meeting
him how she had
of as he passed
most touching
in a way
- When I
"I, I, I, I, I"
weak as water
it from harm?
a strolling
got ~~an~~ enjoyment
out on to tell

me all the fun & the hardship
& the excitements of that tour.
~~with~~ ~~just~~ ~~all~~ ~~wh.~~ cleared
her heart & brain of all
cobwebs -
and now I have told
you all I can recollect
you can make whatever

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it suggested ~~the~~ ^{the} full
conception of the character,
even if it did not fulfil
it to the utmost -

Her Lady Macbeth, I do not
remember; - she played it
when I saw her with G. V.
Brooke who was then at his
best. - I remember too
seeing her once in a ~~very~~
version of Beaumont & Fletcher's
"Saucy Lady" wh. was extremely
bright & clear -

I must have seen her in
other characters but I
do not recollect them -
Yes - I once saw her in Fazio

or I know I admired it - but
my recollection is not distinct
I never saw her act in London
The chief characteristics of her
acting as I remember it
was its intense earnestness
& directness - & the absence of
all evidence of ^{self} consciousness
or any desire ~~to~~ make
the spectator think of the actress.

In these days she used
to ^{in private} sing - in a very dramatic
& remarkable manner. not
a note of voice - but its place
supplied by her power of utterance.
It seemed as tho' her will
did every thing -

I always retained a real regard
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resolute &
word meeting
him how she had
of as he passed
most touching
e this in a way
ation, - when I
e story" - "I shou
weak as water
t from harm?
a strollist
got ~~any~~ enjoyment
out on to tell

me all the grief & the hardship
& the excitements of that tour.
~~with~~ ^{with} just all wh. cleared
her heart & brain of all
cobwebs -

and now I have told
you all I can recollect
3470 you can make whatever

I respect for her -
one incident in her life. she
once told me - ~~but~~ it ~~ad~~ had
be used in print. but one ~~and~~
with the spirit of it & the ~~gave~~
for help & strengthening of those
who might be in similar ~~case~~

She was, before she came to
England, still a ~~young~~ ~~bride~~
on the Boards, much attached
to young man in a higher
position of life. who ~~other~~ ~~seem~~
the impersonation of all that
was elegant & refined.
He had courted her - ^{but} she
discerned that his intent
was not honourable - nor his
purpose marriage: & she broke
the acquaintance at once.

She spoke of the resolution ⁵
it required to avoid meeting
him - or seeing him how she had
concealed herself as he passed
close by her - almost touching
her. - She told me this in a way
I have never forgotten. - When I
said. "you were strong" - "I strong
child! I was as weak as water
but I was kept from harm."
After this she got ^{a thrilling} ~~an~~ ~~engagement~~
& then she went on to tell
me all the fun & the hardship
& the excitements of that tour.
~~with~~ ~~just~~ ~~all~~ ~~wh.~~ ~~clear~~
her heart & brain of all
cobwebs -

and now I have told
you see I can recollect
3470 you can make whatever

I respect for her -

the incident in her life. she
once told me - ~~but~~ it ~~ed~~ had
be used in print. but one ~~ed~~
wish the spirit of it to be given
for ^{the} help & strengthening of those
who might be in similar ~~cases~~

She was, before she came to

England, & still

on the Board

Do you mind

Position of life

The impersonal

was elegant

He had courted

discovered that

was not honor

Purpose marriage

the acquaintance

use you please of this letter

I think the record of the

single handed strife she

carried on & the uprightness

with which she attained at last

her fortune & success will

be a help & comfort to

many who are now struggling

in various grades & conditions

of life -

If you allude to my request

to see these portions of my

letters you wish to use

I will return them to you

& along with them any

incidents of which they might

recall my memory - In

any case I trust you that

no names or ~~or~~ references of

a personal nature shall

be introduced - one writes

careless & on the impulse

of the moment one writes

many things which one

is wish very much to

blot " !

I am dear Madame

Yr very truly

Geraldine L. Jewsbury

to Miss Stebbins

16 East 43rd Street New York.

I have no letters of Miss Cushing

many years ago I destroyed

I respect for her -
the incident in her life. She
once told me - ~~but~~ it ~~is~~ hard
to be used in print. but one can
wish the spirit of it to be given
for ^{the} help & strengthening of those
who might be in a similar case

She was, before she came to

England, I think
on the Board.
Do you know her
Position of life
The impersonal
was elegant
He had Court
discussed that
was not honor
purpose marriage
the acquaintance

needing all the letters I possess
written by any one. I had no
room to keep them - & I preferred
destroying them to leaving
them ~~after~~ to any accident