

[Please forward statement,  
Printed letter head: "Villa Cushman, Newport R.I."]

(John Hopkins ditto)

July 2 - 1876.

Sydney James, Esq.

Dear Sir: - I received yesterday from Miss Emma Stebbins,  
a letter from you in which you give Mr Osgood's proposition,  
with regard to the Memoirs. I have since been trying to see my  
way clearly, to be able to give you what counsel I can. If I  
understand it, Mr. Osgood assumes all responsibility in the  
matter. - and is to pay all charges. - He to pay Miss Stebbins  
10% of retail price for copyright. [Amount: copyright], after 10<sup>th</sup> <sup>copies</sup> have been  
sold. This seems to me to be a fair proposition enough. As to whether  
~~that the payment to Miss S.~~ <sup>payment</sup> is to begin after 10<sup>m</sup> or 8<sup>m</sup> I think it  
a work of supererogation to go into that, for I do not think that  
many would sell, but thus I am never sanguine in any matter.  
The one thing that disturbs me (and these my despondent temperament  
again.) (comes in) is the lack of material, and in the event of insuf-  
ficient material, do you feel sufficient confidence to push  
the thing through.

I only bring forward these views, as I am unable to as-  
sume any pecuniary responsibility to Mr. Osgood, in the event  
of your and Miss S.'s failure to bring the book to completion,  
through ill health, or insufficient material, or want of time in  
which to complete it. - I trust you will pardon me for bringing  
up such a possibility. but I know how Mr. Osgood would feel,  
and the step he would probably take, should the book not be  
completed from any cause. He would say, Miss Cushman's estate  
is good & they must reimburse me for the outlay I have  
been at. - at least, such would I think, be his view, and  
it is just that, that I wish to have understood. The risk  
must be his, & that being understood I think it would be  
well to close the contract with him. I know your part  
will be well done, if you have half a chance, and let us  
hope that 20<sup>th</sup> copies may be sold and that all parties  
may have cause to be congratulated.  
Pray excuse my suggestions, they come from E.C.  
Cushman, Trustee, a heartless being, who has to



account to other trustees, who in turn have to account  
to a probate court, & give good reasons, and vouchers,  
for all expenditures of whatsoever nature.  
Would it not be possible for you to make us  
a visit here this summer, and whatever matters  
there are, are in this house, and then Sallie is here,  
to refer to, as to does &c. I think it would be well  
to you.

Yours very sincerely  
Edwin Curhman.

[Was Ned a disappointment even after his death?  
Was not his children the chief benefactors of the estate?]

Envelope addressed

Sydney David, Esq.  
1425 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia

Post mark **NEW YORK**  
May  
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Care of Gibson  
Peacock Esq.