

Johns Hopkins Univ.
New York 37 West 37th St. [1876 'add']
March 27th

My dear Saml.

I was beginning to feel anxious at your silence, and feared that this hard ~~and~~ cruel month was dealing treacherously with you. My sister and myself have been compelled to keep indoors most of the time - the world seems sadly out of joint and all the elements apparently combine to kill off the weaker members. Seeing the loss we incur I hardly see the use of trying to live, that atmosphere draws me so, as the days go by - and I feel less and less the impulse and power to keep up. But I must never forget that I am writing or speaking to those younger than myself who have not yet arrived at my point of view - and for whom life has not yet lost all its charm. Your letter tells me that you came to a standstill in the way of work, early in April - Am I to understand by this that you have not realized your project of joining Thomas's Orchestra? I want you to keep me informed of all of your movements & plans - Edwin Cushman was in town yesterday on his way to St. Louis - and we talked over the possibility of your making a visit to Newport, whenever it would best suit you to do so. He will write you himself on the subject. My movements are as yet somewhat vaguely defined. My friends say my mission is to live and to serve. I desire no better motto for what is left to me of life. I find myself still in that via - not able to make plans independently - but I shall hope to divide my summer between Lenox and Newport - and shall certainly make the effort to be there at the same time with you - so that we may have an opportunity of talking over that matter of the memoir which is slowly taking place in my mind - Of course you know as well as I do - that it is not a thing to be done in a hurry - no preparation has ever been made for it - no materials ever gathered together - Miss Cushman has always been singularly indifferent on the subject - she never kept journals or diaries - and I was much too hardworked during my life in Rome to do so - greatly now to my regret - we have nothing but letters and our memories to trust to, & mine is of very little value so far as names - dates & facts are concerned. There is much to be considered - I feel that it will be a work of time & of love to produce a worthy memorial of this great life - great in all its different phases - in its material aspect as well as in its high moral & spiritual significance. I propose now to begin at once collecting what materials there are - and everything relating to her, was always mixed

through his affections with much that was purely personal,
no one but his nearest & dearest, as I was, and am thank God!
- should have the sifting of these materials - It will be necessary
for all to pass through my hands first - before any preparations
for the public can be made. After that you & I can come
to some understanding about it - mean time let me have
any thoughts or suggestions which may occur to you
with reference to it. Ned was speaking to me of old Mr.
Fredericks in Phil^a - Charlotte's oldest friend - and a perfect
mine of reminiscences about her - as he is very old - and already
very infirm - it would seem important that we should procure
from him whatever he remembers of her early times in the
profession, and if you should be in Phil^a at all, as I thought you
might be likely to be, on account of the Cantata - it may be possible
for you to do this - you know the Peacocks are intimate with Frederick,
and you could approach him with authority - from us, as we concerned
in what he would also be deeply interested in - But I do want you to
speak with me frankly and do not let me suppose upon you anything
difficult or impossible - let us know your position - and whatever
will be needed in carrying out this sacred duty - will be provided -
speaking of the Cantata - my sister who has the most delicate & ap-
preciative mind you can imagine has been reading it - and she is
much struck with it - finds I think your meaning - which like music
stretches for back & forward & into the unknown - it is very much too
good for the place & time but these things do not apply to place & time
they are for the great heart of humanity - around which all the material
facts are as visions & dreams & unrealities -
I am pleased to be brought in rapport with your irbe, and that my ut-
terance of mine should elicit such gracious commendation, Will you thank
her for her kind message, which is heartily reciprocated. I hope we may meet
I hear from Mrs. Cushman that she is coming to N.Y. on the 12th schedule
to pass a few weeks with her children. I shall be very glad to be near her
once more - & see my dear Sallie again - I have felt very much my
separation from all my associations - so suddenly & completely - it has
made the great absence greater and the sense of a great presence
more difficult - ah, the world without her is too lonesome!

Let me hear from you soon, and hold me always with affectionate
regard -
Your friend - Emma Stedman

Do not forget to send me the poem of which you speak - I
enclose you two sonnets by H.H. - which you may not have seen -
Please keep them for me - she sent them some time ago, &
they appear this week in the Independent. I wish I could ease
my heart in a sonnet!

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