

(Johns Hopkins Union)

Villa Cushman. Newport. Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 77.

My dear Annie

I am very glad indeed to get your letter and know something about you - for however long the silence may be between us. I never lose my interest in you and for you it grieves me much to find the news are not encouraging. I should have written to you again - but your suggestion about going to ~~Wash~~ - left me without an address. - It seems very hard that little gleam of light had to be extinguished - but you are not alone in your disappointment. I hardly know anyone who is not anxious and troubled, and darkness seems to lower all round the horizon. You will be surprised to hear that even in this favored locality - the future looks threatening - and it is possible we may all feel the pressure of the times. It seems incredible - and yet I am told that Miss Cushman's handsome estate is so much lessened by the shrinkage in values, that there are doubts if it can continue to pay even the annuities - Mr. Crow, who is usually a sanguine man (Mrs. Cushman's father - and the Chief Trustee) writes the most gloomy letters from St. Louis, which make Mr. Cushman quake in his shoes - (this is between ourselves) - He is summoned to St. Louis to look into matters for himself and is very low in his mind about it.

You see I write from Newport where I have been since the 6<sup>th</sup> Nov., and shall probably remain during Mr. C's absence in St. Louis. The fine autumn weather we have had - plenty of oxygen - and the good which comes from 'Cerebral diversion' of any sort, has strengthened me - and I am in better health than at any time during the summer - which notwithstanding my wandering - did not help me much. We (Sallie & I) went from point to point in search of good air - first to Princeton Mass - celebrated by H. H. and really a charming spot - then to Twin Mt. House in the White Hills, where I saw & heard Beecher - then back to Hyde Park - We returned to N. Y. in Oct<sup>r</sup> and we are in the same house we occupied last year - No. 15 E. 43<sup>d</sup> St, and in precisely the same groove - a very narrow one, owing to Mr. Galardi's continued ill health. - He has your malady but without the relief which you seem to obtain from Hemorrhages - and we fear there is not much hope for him. - I was not able to write at all during the summer - being continually warned by my feelings - and also by medical authorities that I must use my brain as little as possible - but I have still taken advantage of every little lift I got. to struggle on with the work - and have succeeded in compiling about six chapters - comprising the most difficult period - viz. the English one - the materials were very desultory - & it had been a trying and difficult task, which has convinced me more & more as I have gone on, that no one but myself could have done it. - It is a simple & straight forward record - a



mingling of facts & memories & a few fancies drawn from them - put together with no literary ability, to which I have no claim, but possessing at least the merit of being done con amore, and with the most earnest desire to do justice to the noble woman - as well as to the true artist.

The chapters thus far seem to give entire satisfaction to the family and were also approved by friends in whose judgment I have confidence. If I could only bribe my own approval I should be glad - but that is a thing I have never been able to do yet, and probably never shall. I want now to ask you one or two business questions, since you were concerned with me in that part of the affair. - Do you think that the contract made with Osgood & Co. was as favourable a one as I could procure? Would I be justified in giving the book to a higher bidder if I could find one? or am I in honour bound to Osgood? - When he abrogated the contract - he expressly reserved what he called the right to publish the book whenever it was written. It seems to me that now the circumstances are altered - he will not be called upon to advance money - and therefore ought to make more favourable terms. - I am more interested now in the pecuniary part of the enterprise than I was then, my financial affairs not being secure, and I have responsibilities which make me anxious. - Everybody thinks the book would sell itself - and although there has been delay, I am sure its announcement will <sup>(arr?)</sup> arouse all the old interest which must focus attack to the name of Miss Cushman. - I am not able yet to fix any time for publication - so much depends on my state - but if I keep along as well as I have been of late, I may be able to get it ready by next fall - or perhaps one vol in the Spring and another in the fall - so you see you have plenty of time for your contribution. The vols will be about the size of Lord Macaulay's Biography -

I want to tell you there is a friend staying here now - who was also a great friend and lover of Miss C. - Miss Mary Martin of Auburn, N.Y. She has been much interested in you by Miss C. and would like much to know you - She is a very intimate friend of the Seward family - and is going shortly to Washington - I think she might be of service to you there, and she has quite the will to be so. - She knows everybody and is the soul of kindness and goodwill - tell me when you visit, what was the position you were promised there, and what are the obstacles in your way - I have given Miss Martin your address - and if she stops in Baltimore she proposes to find you out. - Your description of your housekeeping gives me quite an ambition for such a way of life, present me most kindly to your wife - your friend Mr Calvert asks me particularly after you - and Mr & Mrs. Cushman beg to be remembered. Yours ever faithfully, E.S.