

Jennie Lorenz

RESEARCH NOTES

Notes on Miscellaneous Correspondence

Johns Hopkins University

(John Hopkins U.)

Parson House, Boston. Jan. 11th [1876 added]

Dear S. S. I ask you a thousand times pardon for my delay in acknow-
ledging your kind and sweet letter, as well as in giving you news
of C. C. - which you may be well anxious for. - We have had very trying
times - this battery of chemicals to which she has been and is subjected -
seems to be growing more & more furious as it reaches its culmin-
ation and as she is less & less able to bear it.

This little incarnate Will who has us body & soul in his hands,
goes on like fate itself, and on much different grounds from anything
one has ever known before - that I have ceased to have an opinion -
or say black is black & two & two make four. - He says 'all is right' -
when to our un instructed vision - all is as wrong as it can be -
there is nothing for it - but submission - and such faith as the Lord
will vouchsafe us. I say 'soul' above advisedly - for he pretends
to act directly upon the ego which I take it is the soul - is what
the Germans call the 'innermost' - that part of us from
which all that is best in us comes - he tells us of a case, where he
has absolutely created an artist! - what do you think of that? C
has been so poorly that I have not liked to ask her for the note of in-
troduction you solicit - Today, I hope to get it - to enclose in this -
for she seems better and brighter than she has been for two weeks -
God grant the gleam of sunshine may shine brighter and longer to the
poor day.

The Dr. thinks this morning that she has passed the culminatory point -
after which we shall be in the ascending scale again. -

It is well you have cautioned us about the 'Cantata' - for what more natural
than that should mention to a special friend, here - a fact so honorable to
you - and we fraught with so many possible results? - I believe it has
been already mentioned - but only once to Miss Sever - to whom C
always reads your letters - and how can you wonder when you write
such pretty things? This time she insisted on my reading to her
mine also - so the Cantata - has sounded a few notes in advance. -
Your lovely sonnets to C - have given her great delight and generally
delighted our select circle. I don't know anyone upon whom the
mantle of those courtly, gallant, chivalric Elizabethan fellows -
seems to have more certainly fallen.

We also have seen the slip you enclose - which is going the
round of the papers - you had better be careful how you whip a

secret even to your flute - if you don't want it to get into the newspapers. No, there have been no more autobiographic notes - the 'sweet lively/soul, has been too much occupied struggling with its own anguish' - and even at the best of times she finds it tedious to dwell upon mere personal matters - except on specially sympathetic occasions - When we get in the ascending scale once more - then I shall stand - notebook in hand getting material for the sweetest life to put in print - that one was written? -

I am not a bit patriotic - I don't take the slightest interest in the Centennial - I consider these great shows - thoroughly inertistic - but a slight stirring of the old chords comes with the idea of your Cantata, can't you - take ^{take} ^{take} a little on the score of honour - highmindedness - political honesty - judicial integrity - and all the rest of these musty old virtues - seemingly out of date? but I suppose it would not do - you will have to sound the chord that's set for you - poor dear! -

Now I want to ask you a question, which you must candidly answer - you remember that at C's request I sent out your two chief poems to a mutual friend of ours in London - an intimate of Swinburne's - asking that they might be shown to him, with a view to future contingencies - Well, I have an answer from this friend - the poems were shown to Swinburne, and she sends me an extract from a letter - in which he gives his opinion of them - it is English - it emanates from one of a clique who welcome Joachim Miller and call Walt Whitman our 'one great poet' - You perhaps may prefer to get all opinions and hold them for what they are worth - I suppose an artist should stand ready to profit by all ^{winds} ~~means~~ that come - favourable or unfavourable - shall I send you this extract? Can join me in love & hearty good wishes - I hope the letter of introduction will arrive in time -

Yours ever faithfully,
E.S.

[Friend doubtless was
Madame Venturi.]

Envelope addressed:
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