

Stemont House, Boston.

Monday night, Aug 16th 52.

My dear Sir—

I know not when I have experienced so sad a disappointment, as I did when calling at your home last Friday, I learnt that you were absent; and when calling again this afternoon I was informed that you had not returned, and was not expected before the end of the week. Were it not that I am travelling with my family, in which is an invalid daughter, I would certainly await your return, and not leave these parts until I had enjoyed the pleasure of forming your acquaintances. As it is, we are anxious to reach the Jersey sea shore before the season of bathing is over; and, therefore purpose leaving this to-morrow. Consequently I am under the necessity of offering you my salutations along with my parting respects.

Nothing could reconcile me to the loss I have sustained in failing to meet you here, but the consciousness that you must need the relaxation you have taken; and

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Cambridge

the hope that you will enjoy yourself, and improve your health among the mountain wilds, where you have gone. It was our purpose to have visited the White Mts. also: but our longer stay at Niagara, Ogdensburg and Montreal than we had intended, seemed to render it inadvisable. Had I hoped to have met you there, we should certainly have crossed over from Burlington, instead of going up the Lake.

As you were once so complimentary as to ask me for my Daguerriotype, I have availed myself of the present opportunity of leaving one at your house; and should have been much gratified to have had even this unsatisfactory view of yourself. But your servant told me that there was nothing of the kind about the house. As to that which I leave for you, I pretend not to judge of its merits. The Scriptures tell us that we look into a glass and straightway forget what manner of man we are. I must plead guilty of this oblivion in the present instance, for I must confess that I did not know I had

so gruff a face. My wife says "you must not leave that picture for Dr. Gray, it makes you look colder than you are." But I presume the instrument is more faithful than the optics of either of us; and I therefore see the wisdom of offering it to you as the best substitute I can of myself.

Should it create an unfavourable impression on your mind, in regard to the original, I trust that you will do him the justice to suspend a final decision until he has had an opportunity to plead his cause, in propria persona, before you.

Your gardener has been so kind as to show me over your grounds, in which I see many of my old acquaintances, and many other things which I should like to know better. I am particularly delighted to see that my countryman, the Cladonia, has bloomed so freely in this latitude, so high above its native localities.

With the kindest respects to Dr. Gray, I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours.

C. C. Short



Short, Charles Wilkins. 1852. "Short, Charles W. Aug. 16, 1852." *Charles Wilkins Short letters to Asa Gray*

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