

Robinson Springs Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> 1878

My dear Friend

I received your letter with much pleasure, and was not a little surprised, as you can well imagine, to learn that you, too, had become a wanderer from home and friends, like myself.

How often, and how much, I think of "my own native land," none can tell but those who have been similarly situated. You I know can appreciate my situation and feelings, and can sympathize with me to a degree, but you are not all alone as I am. How many times have I thought, how would I prize the society of my old and highly valued friends. The manners and customs of the people here, are so different from those at the North, that I have not yet become accustomed to them. I feel too much the dissimilarity of my habits, tastes, &c. to theirs. Did you not have the same feelings when you first came to this country? But I suppose these feelings will gradually wear as I become better acquainted

I like very much however, notwithstanding some few unpleasant things (which I suppose we ought always to expect wherever we are), and am not at all sorry I came. It is rather lonely here, and has been all Winter but we are expecting several families over, from town, shortly, to spend the Summer, and it is said to be very pleasant here in Summer. I was very agreeably disappointed in the state of society, it being much more refined and highly cultivated than I expected to find in the country, from what I had heard previous to my coming to this country. But this is easily accounted for, by considering that many people from town have their Summer residences here, and of course give a higher tone to society in general; though there is, properly speaking, very little society here at present.

How do you like the manner of living in this country? I do not like it much - I am too fond of "the good things of this world," to relish much the plain food they have here, though I suppose, perhaps, that it may be more wholesome. Neither do I like their colored servants much, and I think that our Northern abolitionists need not make so much ado about the ill treatment of slaves, as it seems to me to be about as much trouble for the whites to look after their slaves, as for the slaves to serve their masters. And if I may be allowed to express my opinion upon a subject that I acknowledge, I know little about, I will venture to say, I think that the emancipation of the slaves must and will take place gradually and slowly; that otherwise it would be attended with the greatest evils; and it seems to me, unreasonable to suppose so great a work can be accomplished without taking a period of time, proportional to its importance.

I was certainly very much astonished, to find their condition so different from what I had always heard.

— Do you not find a wide field for botanical researches? I have seen but few flowers that were not entirely new to me. I miss the hills and mountains of New England very much. I assure you, and would dearly love to climb them once more as I did in the happy hours of childhood, and often, very often, does my imagination carry me back to those familiar haunts, till my fancies seem almost realities. — I hear from home very often, and my friends continue to enjoy good health, generally. I received a letter several weeks since from Gissie Wheelock, who, I suppose you very well remember was at Swansea when we were there at school.

She was well, and was in Fitchburg Mass. taking lessons in Music. I take the Universalist Watchman published in Montpelier Vt. so that I keep very well versed in home news. — I have not heard from Lebanon since the first of the Winter — there was then no school there.

Lately I fear the glory of Lebanon has departed. Mr. Mason is settled in Lowell. I read as notice in the Watchman several weeks ago, that Rev. Mr. Lee of Brattleboro was about to take charge of the Universalist society in Lebanon — perhaps he will also take charge of the school there.

I suppose you have already heard of the death of Mr. Willis — his loss must be deeply felt by all who knew him. I do not know how soon I shall return home — I may possibly in a year from this time, but hardly think I shall so soon, though my friends will not listen to a word of my staying longer than that time.

Remember me to your brother, and tell him to please consider this letter as addressed to both. Write soon, and accept the best wishes of your friend  
C. S. Woodbury

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with you to be with me in the same way as

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with you to be with me in the same way as

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Miss Sarah J. Wendall  
Mt. Washington P<sup>ca</sup>



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