promotion from a hawk to an owl or not — However I have seen more birds than those two species since my apprenticeship began — I should like to know by what means you know that I neglect the botanic garden — I was there but day before yesterday & in good truth [illegible] there are a few beautiful flowers there is no great variety. I am perfectly willing that Miss E. W. Gibbs should take all the wild plants in my garden as you are pleased to term that dirty little hole under the fence, together with all and sundry plants of mine wherever they are to be found provided always that she will take care of them. The "snow shovel" plant which mother said was missing I believe the gardener took up and removed to some other place — That pun of yours was indeed "the last" but I was astonished that you did not conclude with the usual formula — Yours in a hurry — ~~Geo~~ Eliza — but perhaps you were too much in a hurry to add it.