We had a very pleasant time. On Monday I went to the Unitarian church to hear Mr Hepworth, of Boston, conceited and affected.

Suckley has been between here and Baltimore and Richmond for the past week, and returned last night. He reports the condition of things down there as very bad. Says that five out of six daily papers are rebel, and that while last June there was an approach to cordiality, now there is scarce any intercourse with northern officers or people. (I am writing with a confounded iron pen which paralyses my fingers and unluckily cant find the box.)

Prest Johnson's policy will prove fatal to the peace of the country for years if he persists in it. His speech to the mob of secessionists on the 22d February was disgusting & he persists in harangoning all the Copperhead delegations that come on. I get letters from Alexander in [illegible] even worse account of affairs there than exists in Louisiana. Congress holds firm and will continue to do so. I am glad the flag has been so nicely framed. It is a great pity that all the records should not be preserved in like manner, but I begin to despair of that building in the Central park. Bierstadt's picture is on exhibition here. It is greatly admired but his expenses will not be covered. Pity that he put those wretched animals in. His dogs & horses have always been criticised, but as often happens, he prides himself on what he does worst.

I must stop for this confounded iron gives me a neuralgic pain in the end of my fingers — as happened once before. I will write Alfred to-morrow and try and do it at length.

Love to all

George