[1861. Feb.]

My dear George

One of the pleasantest events in this land of strife, is the assurance of your identity in your mothers house, in your own hand writing which Mary recognised at once. Your leave of absence, dating from the Pacific or the Atlantic, with I trust give ample time for visiting us without encroaching on your mothers claim. Your presence being more to her than the balm of Mecca or Gilead. You will go to the island & cheer your Aunt Sarah & if she is well enough bring her with you from her mundane sphere! an infinite good to her — there being danger of one's being rooted (vide Baucis & Philemon) — as you left the Pacific & heard the Atlantic, with your big domes to astonish the natives, did you not feel colossal enough to cope with a Giant — nothing like mobility. Tis well you came — some of us are growing, &