

21 Cornhill, Boston

March 19, 1854

My dear Sir,

I was not a little rejoiced and thankful to see again your own handwriting - and not I alone; Father, Mother, Sarah, Ade, and all, were most glad and thankful at this proof of your convalescence. Thank you for writing, and we hope you are not making too much of an effort, in writing, or in any other way, to interfere with or retard your complete recovery. I spoke to Mr. Parker, at the Music Hall, after service, [your letter had reached me about an hour previous to service, on Sunday (last), and told him I had got a letter from you, with good report of your health. He expressed himself very glad of the news - and

afterwards said, with a queer twinkle  
of his eye, that he had told Joe  
that he "knew what was the matter  
with you". I did not press him to  
divulge, as there seemed to <sup>be</sup> some  
secret, or some joke, in the case —  
— Joseph passed a part of last Sat.  
Afternoon & evening at Father's. We  
conjecture that he is studying very hard;  
and we are a little apprehensive that  
he may be studying too hard. — "What  
a pity it is that every body shouldn't  
be doing exactly right! Certainly it  
is more satisfactory to have a ~~son~~ too  
zealous to employ & appropriate well  
every hour & opportunity of College life,  
than to have one too easy, or careless  
about it. — Joseph seems to be a

great and general favourite. —

I have not heard from your bro. Charles for several days. Mrs. Alcott has returned to Walpole, — called home, I believe, — but a good deal exhausted with her care of Charles,

My wife, Ade, and Edward have all been quite miserably with ~~very~~ severe coughs & croup, which are an epidemic here just now, & make some very ill indeed. Edward was obliged to quit his store, and remain out of it for over a fortnight. He has but just returned to it, and it is uncertain as to his ability to continue. — Father & Mother are very well; I have seldom known them have better health than during this winter.

Cousin L. Wigglesworth has been quite ill, but is now much better,

Our Executive Committee, formally and officially, and the individual members of it, unofficially & without formality, desire that you should be one of the Speakers at the Annual Meeting in New York, in May next - i.e. at the Anniversary Opening Meeting; - provided, always, that your health will permit it; - of which, bye & bye, please inform us.

I hope Cousin Lucretia's health is improving. Our love to her, and to all your family, Affectionately, Yours  
Saml. May Jr

W. W. I wanted to say this. Many of our best boys would be happy to see you. I mean, you, Saml. May, and May are keeping their noses