

Cambridge Washington Co. New York  
 August 7<sup>th</sup> 1876

My dear friend

Next week the steamer leaves  
 San Francisco for Australia, & I can never  
 forgive myself if I allow this letter to pass  
 without mentioning you, as I failed to get a  
 letter off by July's steamer as I had intended.  
 I should like to write you as I have a great deal of dis-  
 appointment to write about. That begins.  
 In regard to new publications of Walt  
 Whitman's I went to many of the leading  
 publishing houses in New York & could  
 find nothing new & nothing quite what  
 you write you talked here, so I had to  
 direct my search. I have since seen  
 however, just as I was leaving the city,  
 that Redfield had published for Whitman  
 himself or some of his friends a new  
 & complete edition of all his writings  
 including some new ones, the book was

not published for Mr. Frodo. Hence my inability  
to get it, I shall however I believe to be  
able to make it a point to hunt it up for  
you and feel quite sure I can do so.  
I enclose a sketch by Whitman of the assass-  
ination of President Lincoln. I chance to see  
it in one of the newspapers & send it for you.  
Your & Whitman's production forwarded to James  
Stockton & Self was duly received but not  
until the last of July - too late then for  
any of the magazines as they are generally  
sent for circulation 10 days before the first  
of the month. I then tried several of  
the leading newspapers, the "Tribune", "Times"  
& "Evening Post" (Wm Cullen Bryant's Paper) but  
cannot express how sorry I am to note that  
they declined it, & thus I was forced to come  
away disappointed. They all gave the same  
reason, substantially which was that it  
was late & was too lengthy for their editions.  
I then thought of cutting it down some  
but wisely I think concluded not to  
attempt it, as I know it would not be  
satisfactory <sup>even if</sup> to you to see it suffer a

multitude at the hands of others.

I received a pastoral from Gardiner upon  
subject, in which he said he could do nothing  
in the position when he was. And Stockton  
was then deep in grief at the loss of his  
dearly wife who died just one year after  
his marriage which took place soon  
after the return of Mr Swartwout to New  
York. Both of them thus could do nothing.  
I tried to <sup>write</sup> him as I said very soon  
I could not succeed. I admire the work  
very much as also have many of my friends  
to whom I have shown it. Yesterday  
I brought out for all my friends and family  
men & women, & one and all found some part  
of it remarkably favorable. Last winter  
I was in Florida & Alabama at work  
with a Coast Survey party having been ordered  
to that duty soon after my return to  
New York, and work being finished we  
returned to New York <sup>May 12<sup>th</sup></sup> to fit out for work  
on the Coast of Maine, that being the  
usual practice with Survey parties, sailing  
in winter, & returning in summer. But owing

to the ~~stagnant~~ economy by the Democratic  
Congress our party has done nothing, nor will  
they until October 1<sup>st</sup> when we return to  
Florida for the winter work, so having  
nothing to do I have spent my time partly  
in New York and partly at home & other  
places. I have been at the Centennial  
one week and was at first dazzled by  
the extent & variety of the exhibits. I was  
glad to see among the colonial exhibits of  
Australia many Jamaica things. The  
display from all the Colonies is a very fine  
one & attracts great attention. No surprise  
being to learn the truth of how well they  
are to far advanced. The exhibition is a  
great instruction & that to my mind it is  
great evidence to the visiting & coming day  
an exhibit like that at Philadelphia gives  
a more truthful account of a country than  
any amount of words the Gov. can  
I was sorry to see some of the Victorian

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I will answer the questions about  
our practice concerning next month.  
I have sent you last & papers, "Linn's" "Herald"

See various articles changed & written  
for which I learn in the papers the Captain  
of the ship has suffered fine & imprisonment  
I intend to return in September, when I  
shall send you better account of it, also some  
of the Centennial literature, send orders etc.  
Our political canvas for President has  
just opened, & from now to November 7<sup>th</sup>  
we may expect stirring times. Last year  
a great many people who voted for Grant  
became dissatisfied at his policy & were glad  
to see the Democrats get control of the  
lower house of Congress (the first time since  
1866) & looked to them for marked changes.  
Now what do they do night in the face of all the  
crimes of the war of the Rebellion but pander &  
crouch to the secessionist & Rebels as craven  
as ever they did in the old slave times. They declaim  
from the various offices about the war all the men  
who had fought for the Union, many thousands, are filled  
their places with ex Rebel soldiers, again to



make political capital they commenced to investigate  
everything & every public man not for the sake of  
true reform but for effect. So far only Belknap has  
been found out, there undoubtedly is corruption  
but not to his extent but Democrats would not  
believe, all they want is get into power once  
more & divide the spoils. You say have cut down  
the appropriations for the necessary expenses of the Public  
Service to such an extent as to seriously cripple the  
govt. No thinking man could help seeing the ridiculous-  
ness of the thing, even after a long session they  
for the sake of the County went in Concordia (Hilden)  
who in 1864 put into the Democratic platform the  
Resolution that the "war was a failure" the good  
sense of the people who gave themselves & their money  
to put down rebellion will not I have confidence that  
these members of the Govt will be punished, & I look  
forward to a triumphant victory for Republican  
principles & "Hayes & Wheeler". I have home until  
Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> when I return to N.Y. I saw Fuller &  
Ketchum just matter some money across the  
border, I also saw Watkins a few weeks ago.  
My paper has run out & I must close with great regards  
at my father's kind regards to you & Mother  
your son - John H. Stevenson