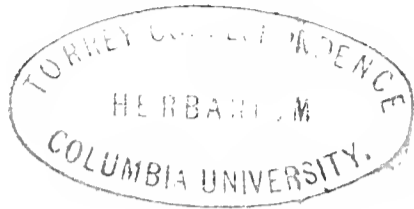


Burlington Iowa Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 1854

My Dear Sir



Your kind favor of Jan 13<sup>th</sup> would not have remained so long unanswered had I not at the time I received it and ever since been walking in the valley of the shadow of death with a dear friend an almost life-long companion whose remains I committed yesterday to the grave.

And now let me thank you for calling up by your most acceptable letter the pleasant memories of the long buried but never forgotten past. It was one of the chief pleasures of my earlier and most cherished recollections of my later life that I could number you among my friends and truly thankful am I that you have not forgotten me nor those delightful studies and pursuits that formed the connecting tie of our earlier and more joyful but perhaps not better days.

And now for an answer to your  
home question "What have I been  
doing these last fifty years?" As this  
world counts doing; little or nothing  
It did not take me long to discover  
that it was not for me to "make my  
mark upon the eye" and having  
<sup>settled</sup> determined that point to my own  
satisfaction I determined to make  
it on myself. I said "I will rule my  
own spirit" and thus be greater than  
"he that taketh the city" I said "I will not  
love the world or seek to honors or pos-  
sessions that so the love of the Father  
may be in me and his peace rest upon  
me!" Looking back across the chilling shade  
ows of the evening and the more sunny  
tracts of middle and early life I see  
not much to regret in my course of  
inaction and passiveness as to the things  
of the life that is. What have I gained  
in relation to that to come? My confidence  
in the future has not been strengthened  
nor my hopes made more bright by

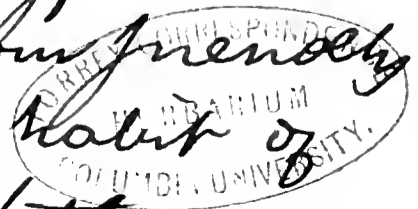
what I have done, suffered, and encountered  
here

But - as I feel myself approaching the  
chill and foggy domains of theology, to walk  
in which may and should be wholly distaste-  
ful to a true lover of nature like yourself I will  
say no more about these things. unless it should  
happen that you having had experiences may  
be conscious of something in this line which  
might be valuable by way of exchange with  
and old and true friend and a lover of  
all knowledge and all truth especially  
such as bears upon the interests and pros-  
pects of our higher and better natures

As I am no longer bound to any one  
spot of earth by family ties (my only son is  
married and settled in business in DuRogue)  
it enters into my day dreams that I may yet  
go forth to gather weeds and stones and  
rubbish for the use of some who may value  
such things, and perhaps drop this life wearied  
body beside some solitary stream in the wilderness

In the mean time it would afford me  
the truest satisfaction to grasp your friendly  
hand once more or to be in the habit of  
frequent intercourse & with you by letter

Most truly yours E. James





Dr. John Jones

New York