

I have reopened the envelope to erase, on second thoughts, the name & address of my American friend, that in writing to him today, I may be able to tell him that I shall keep his name strictly private - To think of my doing such a thing with you! - But I have an idea that it would be right towards him - as matter of business - or at least he might think it so - and at any rate he would probably be more willing to give an opinion.

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9 South Parade, Bath, Feb. 10. 1870. -

My dear Mr. Norton,

What an indefatigable friend you are, in doing kindnesses - or how can we thank you sufficiently for them all! I am sorry you should have had so much trouble & so little purpose about the Whitfield documents - but I quite agree with you, that you have hit upon a capital plan as far as America is concerned. However - about the price - my dear wife thinks it rather extravagant - I have not ~~with~~ that impression so strongly - having no idea what Jonathan might think reasonable or otherwise. But I am rather desirous not to ~~make~~ make a blunder in the matter, or get my name up as a "jew", because it so happens that my little book has had a considerable circulation there, & I am not in the position of a stranger. So I have been thinking that the best plan will be for me to write to a kind friend there,

and try to get his opinion upon the subject. In that way, I should at any rate avoid any egregious blunder - & the delay is not likely to be of much consequence as they are hardly likely to get up a contrary specification at this time of year. And you shall hear the result?

And now to proceed - We are very sorry to hear that your good Mother has not been so well - & hope this sudden severity of weather may not be adverse to her. - About the illust. London Alliance I was stupid not to put down my wish on paper when I mentioned it to you - I will see about it when I return to Hardwick - as I have not the date here. -

If we did not tell you of our projected flight to this place,