

"A LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE."

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CHARLES L. WEBSTER & Co., PUBLISHERS,

EDITORS:

EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN,
ELLEN MACKAY HUTCHINSON.

3 EAST 14th STREET,

NEW YORK CITY, July 27 1885

Dear Mr. Bates,

The Webster-press has just permitted me to see the proof-sheets of your long, & laudable, valuable specimens of an exhausting work - on which so much depends for the editors, & concerning which we grew lagged & doubtful long before Vol. I appeared. Well, the reviewers have made us think better beer of ourselves than

W. J. May, has two codgers. Our two 'tis a shaming place for all / Sam, Faithfully yours, E.C. Gardner
to. if you are in search of a new haunt, with your boy - of course - locate you

we thought before, & we are smothered "heart" again. - I must write a few lines to say how fully I recognize the voluntary & , as you hint, irregular kindness you have done us, - & how plainly I read between the lines your sense of comradeship & remembrance. Hand immense may I be! - I hope you are happy somewhere, this summer (I don't know where) - for me so that I, doomed to stay here, & to bring out these big vols. at the rate of one in two or three weeks or so. Mrs. Gardner bids me, kin & k., remember her most kindly to you. I have sent Arthur on a much-needed vacation to Swissec Lake, N.H., where Hay &

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