

Chicago May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1868.  
45. of W. at house.

My dear Marsh.

I was delighted that Mrs. Henry and the children had the pleasure of seeing yourself and Mrs. Marsh before they left Florence. I hope for the same pleasure before the winter which I propose passing in Rome. While there I shall paint a historical picture representing the late President, General Grant, Lieut. Gen. Sherman, and Vice-Admiral Porter, in an interview on board the River Queen, to decide on a plan for bringing the war to a conclusion by the capture of Richmond and its army. I hope to show you the studios for this work on my way to Rome.

Before entering on my European campaign, I shall "burn my ships" - that is, sell my pictures, studios and engravings. By this step, I try in advance to fortify