Aug 5, 1852

Florence August 5th 1852

Dear Mr Marsh

It is a long time since I have written to you although I owe you a letter — "Trust tomorrow pay to day" is a motto which you may have seen in shops at home. I have seen it in mint-julep shops but for my credits sake, I should say it was by accident as I passed by and a long time ago at that — They have no mint julep here, unfortunately and have the great morality and real piety of the people that tongue rose upon which I intended to write to you has come at last but it has brought nothing of interest to tell you. Here there is little or nothing stirring and from home you get all the news I dare say almost as soon as we do — The nominations have taken place favourable it would seem for the cause (I don't know what cause) of the democrats and doubtfully for the cause equally obscure of the whigs — I suppose that you must be shaking in your shoes at the probability of Genl Pierce coming in and the Fillmore going out — but never mind. In some thing will be found for you to do until your turn comes round again or some new turn makes you a Presidential Candidate. You have only to recognise no small party express no sympathy for the few but great interest and regard for the many. Find out the chinks to slip most patriotic speeches into without touching the right side or the left and be extremely useful to every body and you will be taken up when every body else is so hot or so cold that they must be laid down — Genl Scott is better in the field than he is in the cabinet in the former he knew always when to apply the bristock but his quill hangs fire. He sees better through clouds of gunpowder smoke than he does through a mere wisp of political fog. He comprehends himself by using wet powder — and this is one of the difficulties you will have to meet that of knowing precisely when to pull trigger with good powder — People will look into your cartridge box and examine your ammunition and you must let them suppose at least that they see it —