

Dec. 8 - 1876

My Dear Wheeler:-

I want to thank you for your good and sympathetic letter. I am not sensitive for myself, only for others. In this special case, I know that Mackey, who is one of the born unfortunate, and particularly truly, in consequence, did feel very badly about the harshness of the thing. I thought it was much worse from what I heard. I know that others in time past have felt hurt by caustic, good-natured dips, that you and I would appreciate and enjoy. I think the book is entirely harmless and good natured from beginning to end. It strikes me that Mackey, who is abnormally sensitive, and a very good fellow, should be let alone after this. I should like to see him make historian next year. I think in both ways. I care only for the best welfare of the class, and only write for its sake, not my own. Will talk it over when our next meeting. Very faithfully
Herbert D. Ward