

TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

1716 Camb.

Oct. 19 - '92

My dear Smith,

I would have written before this, but I wanted to know what you thought about the periodical business, so I waited. And now I will say that I am not altogether satisfied with the arrangement as it stands. The "Mahogany Tree" is a very neat little paper in its way and in the course of a year would doubtless contain a good deal of interesting matter, but when we pay four dollars for it with such papers as Harper's Weekly and others at the same price, the thing does not seem altogether satisfactory. I have ransacked the shelves in the library and the counters of every bookstore in Cambridge, but cannot seem to find anything to suit my taste. I never knew there was such a scarcity of literary papers. If you prefer Harper's Weekly to the "M. T." I am quite agreeable. Or, if you can suggest anything else, I shall be glad to hear from you.

Just at present, however, I shall not be able to attend to it, for two reasons: I am decidedly short, and my time bids fair to be pretty well taken up for the next week. That ear operation has got to come and I have made arrangements to submit myself to the carver's hands

on Saturday next at 3.00 P. M. You can think of me then stretched out for all the world like a corpse, filled with ether and letting Dr. Green and two assistants (probably Harvard Medics) do whatever they think will give them the highest satisfaction. Shall be obliged to keep dark in a private hospital in the City for four or five days, and then by the grace of God (if the ether does not kill me) I may be on my feet again. I have not much faith [in] the business, though; I have had an idea all along that the necrosis has got in beyond the small bones. If it has I may hear a trumpet blow a little sooner than I would ordinarily--that's all. I am reading Blackmore's Alice Lorraine,<sup>1</sup> it is very fine like all of that author's books. Will write next Sunday if I can wiggle my fingers. Be sure & write yourself.

Yours

E. A. R.