

9-2-1868

Letter from Sarah Whitney, to Anne Whitney, Rome, Italy, 1868 September 2

Sarah Whitney

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On this morn'g of Sept 2nd
1868, I commit to the friendly
hands of Mrs. Warren, my dearly
beloved Anne this birth day token,
trusting the assurance it bears
upon its face of the well being of
Father & Mother, Brother & Sisters
will make it a welcome messenger
to yr heart by whatever route it
travels. Here, then is but one opinion
expressed respecting the merits of
the picture as a "counterfeit presentment"
of the family on this side of the
water - That I did not make a
spiritual introduction of the
"Dagabond", by holding in my hands

one of her letters, instead of the
"N. Eng. Farmer" has been a matter
of secret ever since the moment
we ~~had~~ turned our faces in
various ways from Mr South-
worth's door. My thought was to
give an old familiar song scene.
But I did not reproduce the table
& the lamp, & the operator said we
must be in a straight line. That
there is so little stiffness in it under
these circumstances is a matter
of mutual & friendly congratulation.
You will see in this how I got a hint
for the type that is to go in my next
letter & wh. will probably reach you
before this does. The frame was not
the selection of my taste but Hobson's
choice in Mr S's meagre establishment,
& takes merely to preserve the plate
in its transportation - Why I have
not procured another in the 10 days

that have passed since, I cannot say.

Your birth day opens brightly in
Belmont with the dog-dayishness of
yesterday quite banished by a cool
west wind. Now & then an unwholly
true reminds us of the rapid approach
of Autumn & the crickets sing it with
visible vigor - but I choose not to
read it & I dare say it will not
harm us. May it bring with every
day that follows it for a twelve-
month to come prosperity & joy
to the dwellers on Trinita de Monte.
Three weeks ago to day you were
in Salzburg on your way to the Mountains
& we - some of us unwilling pris-
oners at the foot of Mt Washington
& other some turning their disap-
pointed steps homeward - but
now it is well with each & all
who find in home a beautiful
refuge. Will three weeks more

find you in or near the Haven
of yr adoption? In that hope
& trust I seek to find a satis-
fying joy in every time of loneliness.
& do find in every report of
successful labor or experienced
good of any kind an enduring
joy that reconciles me to all pain.

The loving faces in the picture
must speak their messages
of love to both Addy & myself,
the real personages being not
far from the land of God.

Heaven bless you now &
always in the good morning &
every moment prayer of
Yr own Sarah.



Miss Anne Whitney
Trinita de Monte
Rome