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My dear Sir:

I was very anxious to go to Winfield, not only to see your work but also to see some very dear friends who were to meet me there.

A little exposure during the recent storms has brought on spinal fever, the result of an old wound. It is a treacherous enemy that lies in wait for <sup>my</sup> every indiscretion and is so relentless that I have learned to surrender at his ~~dis-~~cretion on his demand. It is possible that I might be able to travel by the 18th of June but not probable. So I write that you may have time to fill my place. Respectfully yours  
H. C.