57 W. 17th St N.Y. City
Oct. 15th 1894

Mr Albion Tongie
Dear Sir

Yours of the
recd yesterday. We
are pleased that you
still invite us to yr
home and give us
details as to making
the journey and
place try to get there.
I (Mrs Smith) have
been an invalid for
years and can
make no positive

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engagements that require execution by the movement from place to place of myself — Am obliged to supplement, with more than ordinary meaning, the qualification (if I can.)

We purpose leaving here for home via Mayville) on the 13th, Saturday — Sunday comes in inconveniently sometimes, but with our power of adaptation we appropriate the happy text that

"The Sabbath was made for man" &c, and may sometimes sit contentedly in the cars or even sometimes arrive at a friend's home and thereby demand civilly but peremptorily Sunday hospitality — the latter we do not want to do with you so we may not leave this City until Sunday night. At any rate we now hope to see you at your home within a few days and thank you for the invitation.

a little further - if you will excuse volubility - only that you may have some idea upon which to rest further investigation of this subject. Our public men of '55-6-7 such as Frank Blair, B Gratz Brown, Major James S. Rollins, Ex Gov. Fletcher and others were friends of our father, and worked together with him largely - But after the war when the period of reconstruction came on he was opposed to letting

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the destroyers of the government come in and fill the offices of the government, and in this feeling he seemed to stand alone. He wanted treason made odious. He wanted the rebels to feel that they had done an attrocious thing and wanted penitence before forgiveness. Almost all the old men are gone still there are many younger ones who can testify to his loyalty - and any one who could go there wd have no trouble to find them.

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Now kind friend as to terms.

We are ladies, with this one thought on our minds as a duty, no less than a pleasure — It is not simply that we want a meaningless perpetuation of our fathers name, and the little short lived duration, it might give us of our own, but a conviction that every generation owes a duty to the following, and the history of a peace and growth of a community can only be given by those who live and enjoy its

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willing to pay you - Our father left a beautiful estate, and we have been both fortunate and unfortunate - Last May (or the 4th day) Our 1st Nat. Bank was closed by fraud & treachery leaving us $30,000. worse off than before. We are alone in the world. No one except paid agents to rely upon & have lived economically hoping to do something of benevolence for our town, but you see (partly) how it has gone - Now after we talk it over we hope to be able to come to rational terms for both sides. We do not want your services for nothing and feel assured you will not be exorbitant. We have much to do and write in haste - Sincerely Musd. Smith & Cotton

Stormus and it is sunshine as they pass. The expense of this book ought really to be shared by others than ourselves for we want no name omitted of those who co-operated with our father - It is not enough we want no painting for an idol, we want simply a true man's effort, his struggle with the lower life about him. And to do that in this case at any rate) you have to be lifted into the ideals of the man himself, and with all of his own family even, show his victory - And for a faithful picture of this condition of the man & community we are