

Boston Aug. 3, 1864

My dear Mrs. Cook,

I did not write in reply to your welcome letter of July 13<sup>th</sup> because I thought the Bulletin spoke better than I could & so I mailed you a copy at once, which I trust you promptly received. But the letter has been lying in my drawer ever since; giving me a feeling that I have not done my duty in regard to you until I answered it & thanked you for your friendliness in writing & in sending me the "Mercury." I had not seen the article, until you sent it, & am very glad to have seen, what I must believe to be one of the most shamefaced & unchristian articles ever printed. I cannot believe that a person claiming the name of Christian, even if he lacked the spirit, could so twist & falsify plain simple, earnest words, as they are twisted in that article. It made me at first indignant, then sorry. When afterward, I heard that its slanders were so bad that they reacted on the heads of the writer & publishers & created an increase of interests for the Sanitary Fair, I saw that I had been "of little faith." For if God promises anything, it is that such wickedness shall fail. But His providence, in a wisdom we do not understand, is often slow; this time it was very swift. I don't wish the Sanitary Comm. to gain from abuse of Evil men; that's a sad experience always. Rather do I see in this work of soldier's relief, a cause in which every sincere Christian may work in unity with every other. Thanking you again.

I am cordially yours  
Abby W. May