Amesbury First Day 5th. 12mos 1875

My dear Miss Sargent

It was my intention to be at the reception this Ev. and for that purpose I remained in the vicinity until yesterday morning when I returned to the Marlboro & found that a friend was at my home, who had waited two days for me. I had to take the first train, and was not able to call on thee or write a note. I am very sorry, for I have a hearty admiration for Prof. Proctor, all whose writings are familiar

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to me. I hope I may yet see him. I am thinking how the notable people will arrive, one after the other, & how pleasantly thee & our young friend Alice will receive them this evening. I am afraid I shall think too much of you to permit me to be very gracious to my guests.

With kind reqards to Mr. S. I am always & sincerely thy friend,

John G. Whittier