

Oak Knoll

Danvers

3rd mo. 8 1881

My Dear Whipple,

How shall
I thank thee for
thy over-kind letter,
which I have just
read! And how
can I repay the
many debts of the
kind I owe [- - -]
once was one of the
very first to welcome
my earliest poems, at
a time when as a
"abolition fanatic"

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my name was "cast out
or evil," I shall never
forget my obligations
to thee, and I wish
I knew of any way
to repay them. Words
of praise from thee were
not mere words but
substantial benefits.
To thee more than to
any one else I am
indebted for the general
recognition given
me, and I am
profoundly grateful.
The endorsement of my
work by thy high critical

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authority was worth
more than all else in

giving me a place in
literature. And in giving
me what I greatly
needed, a degree
of confidence in my
self, though I sometimes
feared that the kindness
of thy heart, in my [case]
got the better of [thy]
[high] judgement
[- - - unreadable - - -]
in my behalf I love
Thee all the better for it.
at any rate thy praise

(page 3 ends)

has made me do my best to justify it.

With love to Mrs. W.

I am affectionately thy friend

John G. Whittier