

Boston, May 6th 1882.

My dear Sir,

I am sorry that I
cannot throw any light
upon the question you ask.
It is plain enough that
your criticism is well
founded and singular that
the error should have
gone so long uncorrected.

If I were not overtaken

With various duties I would
hunt our libraries for information
on the subject, but I find it
impossible to do justice to the many
correspondents who pray me the
compliment of asking my opinion
on many subjects about which
it is too obvious they already
know a great deal more
than I do.

Regretting that I cannot
help you in your critical research
I am, dear Sir,
Yours very truly
J. W. Holmes.

P.S. There is a young lady, Miss
Minnie Irving, by name, who has
often written to me from Tarrytown
and to whom I have given more
or less advice in literary matters.

Can you tell me anything
about her? A few words would
much oblige me.

[m1394A]