Macon, Feb'y 19, 1866.

Assuredly, I possess one virtue at least which you may admire, and that is the virtue of stubborn persistence in spite of the rebuffs of fortune and the cold receptions I receive. A consciousness of my utter want of merit cannot condemn your judgment; on the contrary, I am only astonished that I should have ever mustered the requisite impertinence to have sought a prize so far beyond my reach. Let me hope that some one more worthy (he could not be more earnest), will be the chosen one. I must be contented with the cold appellation of friend. I have long deliberated whether a reply was desired to your last, and may be even now overstepping the bounds of propriety in presuming to write at all, yet I beg as little of your charity extended towards me in the correspondence between us for more than three years. If you really desire to close our correspondence, do not hesitate to do it for the very great pains and effort would occasion me. I shall
plainly, regretting the decision to which your judgment has led you, and ad-
mitting the candor and truth of that noble spirit which would not tamper
with a confidence so fully reposed. Your natural worth which is richer than the
tinsel of accomplishment, attracted
me, and I sought only to deserve your
approbation. I have seen much in you
to admire and nothing to censure. If I
were responsible for all the
results of our correspondence, I do
not hold you accountable in the
least for the sorrow which now
brows over my life, but in the midst
of misery in which I am the in-
jured and the injured, I must
acquire you of all censure. Your
peerless nature and happy genial
manners have made me happy
more than once; your words sank
deep into my heart, and gave strength
and nerve where nought else could.
If by your wish (for it never can
be by my own) we should cease
to write to each other, in a few
brief years or months, perhaps, you
Hila, forget me. I can never you. It were better, perhaps, if I could.

Very respectfully, etc.,

[Signature]

Anne S. Mitchell