Memphis, Tenn.
25th April 1875

My very dear friend,

Your most gratifying letter was read with deep feeling, it carried me back to the prayers you made on those solemn nights when we slept together near to Fragers Farm and Malvern Hill.

As I wrote to you in February last circumstances might prevent me from being with you in October and that during the month of April I could probably foretell whether it would be impracticable for me then to be with you. I now write to inform you that it will be so impracticable. This is the less to be regretted as I hear the inauguration of the statue of our friend, the
world's hero cannot take place before the anniversary in 1876.
May we not hope that by that time it will more allowable than now, for a southern man to speak with free breath of the cause which she so efficiently maintained and so well illustrated.
I am glad to hear that your health has not been good during the winter, and I sincerely pray that the advent of spring may bring to you its genial influence.
Please make my acknowledgements to you, my associates, and communicate to them the fact of my inability to meet them in next October as invited.
With high wishes and cordial regard to Mrs. Pendleton and each of your daughters, and a hearty