Madrid and Algiers, the cold has never been so intense within the recollection of the oldest.

We have here at present a social library, which has all the new periodicals books &c. I have read since I last wrote you Prescotts Ferdinand & Isabel. It is a splendidly written thing, I think equal in interest to any novel I ever read. Miss Sedgwick's travels too, I was very anxious to read them and was much disappointed. Her style is cheerful, and vivacious, but her judgment of persons and things is not impartial, & some of her accounts are not from authentic sources. I have just finished Mary of Burgundy by James, The scenes are laid in the time of Charles the Bold, it is very finely written, and is I think quite useful, for one can remember events so much better to have them conn[illegible] the by some tale. Do you not think so? Read it by all means. James is accused of imitation of Scott and perhaps it is true, for his style is certainly fine. His descriptions of scenery I think surpassed by few ever varying, ever unlike.

Now I want to tell you that Mary and I are collecting autographs, have about 20, and you must lend a helping hand and will reciprocate the favor, I have Leonard Woods & E. D. Griffin's for you, and shall be able to get you some of the Gov's &c. You will aid in the good cause will you not?. I think you can get some of the physicians for us. We now have some of the gov. of Maine & N. J. ministers, &c &c.

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That is quite funny about Turner's, Milton liked Mrs Harris very much - has boarded there a long time. If S. S has become pious - none need despair - Mary is he tired (I would say loved) as well as ever - say what you may - you love him - the eye tells many tales and I can [illegible] Joins remarks on Scott are very good - as usual - You are a [illegible] expect soon we shall have to pay a double postage on full letters - What a horrid crawl this is - Pray excuse it