

I cannot be too ⁴ urgent in my request for your kind and valuable Co. operation, and I fervently hope that you will not disappoint me.

The memorial will be issued on Mr. Beecher's 74th birth day anniversary (June 24) and if you will be so good as to oblige me with a few treasured lines of remembrance before April 25th it will be ample time for a place of honor in this national memorial to the first of Americans.

I hope to receive a poem from your good friend, Mr. William Winter, and letters have also been sent to Lord Tennyson, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Browning, Walt Whitman and others.

Awaiting your response with great pleasure and with assurances of deep respect. Believe me, Mr. Stedman, your most obedient servant,

Edward W. Bok.

Dr. Wm A. Hammond is writing an article on Mr. Beecher's mental characteristics for the memorial.

V.A.S. /

Proposed Memorial
TO THE LATE
Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

The memorial is restricted to the letters and literary contributions of only a limited number of the most distinguished men and women of America and Europe, and will be published in noteworthy form for presentation to Mr. Beecher's family, and as a lasting record for his friends and the public.

EDWARD W. BOK,
Editor,
320 State Street, Brooklyn, N. Y., U. S. A.

Edmund Clarence Stedman.

March 23/1887

My dear Sir. It is the special desire of the large number of Mr. Beecher's friends interested in this final tribute to his memory that it shall contain a contribution from the pen of a gentleman whom the renowned patriot, preacher so warmly admired, and to whose poetical writings he so frequently referred to among his friends. Mr. Beecher only six or seven weeks previous to his demise, in referring to your poems, many of

which he had read. declared that
"The Hand of Lincoln" was the one
he enjoyed above all others and that
he had read it again and again.
"Phil. Kearny at Seven Pines" he con-
sidered the next best production.

In making this request of
you, Mr. Steadman, I beg that you will
believe that it is ^{one} ^{uppermost}
with me, and the granting of which
I should esteem indeed a high honor.

From the promises and contribu-
tions already received from noted persons,
among them Genls. Sherman, Sheridan
and Fremont, Admiral Porter, Lucy Lar-
com, Mrs. U. S. Grant, Mrs. Gar-
field, Mrs. Ex. Pres. Polk, Dr. Mark
Hopkins, and about 125 others of
equal fame. The memorial bids fair
to be the most notable of its
kind ever made, and we should
feel that Mr. Beecher's personal
wish was carried out, could he

but express it, were it to receive a
Contribution from your pen, which I
fervently trust may be a poetical one,
however brief.

Few Contributions which may be
added to this volume ^{would} give us all
such sincere pleasure as a poetical
tribute from you to our great departed,
and I am therefore particularly hope-
ful that you will grant my appeal.

It will be our aim to make this
memorial a record to which Mr. Beecher's
admirers will proudly refer to in future
years.

Herbert Spencer, Bartholdy, and
John Bright, all intimate friends ^{of Mr. Beecher} have
cabled that they will gladly prepare
their contributions and send them within
a month, and Whittier, Dr. Holmes
and Mr. Lowell have also been commu-
nicated with, and I hope to hear from
them within a few days. To day's mail
brought many favorable responses, among
them a fine poem from Lucy Larcom and
an excellent tribute from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.