1864 August

every step of our way is ordered of Him. I do not know when I have passed through a trial so severe as I did on Friday & Saturday last: and then again, yesterday & today have been marked by a wonderful degree of peace, in the assurance that God will keep us. It is not only the separation from yourself, but the scattering of the children which afflicts me: And then I know I make matters worse by my own fretful heart. — Mr. Buckleys state has oppressed me sadly. and Mr. Meredith also keeps me anxious and then I find one after another patients claiming my attention so that I fear I shall be kept here entirely. With all this comes a most surprising deterioration of bodily health and strength. I have not been so ill for many years I think profoundly. home is good

August 16

I am not prepared to act in any way. and you have enough on your mind without this yet. I shall take no step till I see you and we know more positively what shall be done. I do not wish to lead Maria into an enterprize of this kind hastily. and therefore mentioned it to her that she might talk it over with her husband. I think you and I would both find ourselves more pleasantly fixed together with her than with a stranger or even with any one we know who takes lodgers. Reassured however I have done & will do nothing about it in haste or without consultation with you. I can not tell you how my whole nature shrinks from the contemplation of such a plan. and yet I do not now see any thing else for us and if it is right I believe