1865 Cooke Notes

Ivy Neck July 15th 65

My Dear Friend [Beatwaite?]

Your welcome letter reached me in due course of mail. I am now seeking some restoration of my Exhausted powers amid the tranquil shades of this secluded retreat. in which we are as much isolated as though we were in the wilderness. Our nearest point of communication with the outer world is at a distance of three miles. Our P.O. 5 miles away. and no neighbour accessible. Except the farm labourers in our own employ. At distances varying from three to 10 miles we have intelligent friends & connexions, but the great majority of them are unhappily Rebels; & though we do not allow this difference of opinion to produce active hostility, it does of necessity lead to alienation of feeling and interrupt the cordiality of intercourse