Extract of Letter from Wendell Phillips just a Month before his Death:

Jan. 3rd, 1884.

Dear Pillsbury:—Grover tells me you are not well, I am very sorry; but you must hasten to get well, for there are very few of the Apostles left, and we can’t spare you yet from this scene.

I was reading your volume, and meaning to write you when I had finished—but rather now, to tell you how much gratified I have been with it. Old scenes freshened, and half forgotten points brought out and set in fitting light. That Beach matter is remarkably well told, and the attitude of the church thoroughly examined and arraigned. Thanks. * * * I hope you will take excellent care of yourself and give us another volume, carrying on and filling out the picture. With warmest regards to your wife and daughter,

Yours faithfully,

WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Concord, N.H.
2 July, 1884.

My dear Pillsbury: It is long since we have exchanged letters. I have been something and suffer much in the time. Mr. Phillips has passed away, soon followed by Mr. & Mrs. Wallcut. Mr. Whipple has removed to New York, and now, what is left for one in that once near city to my heart, is to the Hemisphere?
I truly have a night there unless at some hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison are hospitable, good and kind as were their super excellent father and mother, and I do sometime call upon them.

But most of my Boston lights shine no more, and dark indeed grows the world as I look towards myself.

My book will exactly as I expected. Had I followed my own spirit promptings there would have been only one thousand printed. My friends cancelled two thousand and one thousand are on my hands with apparently no order for them. This little sheet will only the card at the top added the much to the sake where I sent it, subsequently to the printing mill declining.
Try to get it to say,

To you that I have over fifty dollars raised to re-produce "The Brotherhood of Thieves."

I have no doubt the money can and will be raised to complete the enterprise. I have estimates made and am told that a thousand copies handsomely done can be had for about seventy dollars. My idea is to have at least a facsimile of the former stereoscopic editions as possible. But it will be the twenty first thousand.

I think those who subscribe the money should all be furnished copies at the rate of five copies for every dollar subscribed and paid. The retail price to purchasers being twenty-five cents.
My friend Mr. Edwards of Michigan subscribed his twenty five dollars, with the understanding, I suppose, that I would undertake the publication of the work.

Which I shall be only too happy to do with all the discretion of which I am capable; and the fidelity and integrity of one who would bear the name, and believe it too, of a strictly honest man.

Perhaps you would prefer the subject to a few whose you know in Boston who might favor the enterprise; or lend me their names and I could do it myself. I shall ask Capt. Harding and Mr. John Whiting whom in Boston in three or four days.

Pardon this effusion and believe me most respectfully yours,

Frederick Billings.