

JAMES

Albergo Primavera,
Via Veneto,
14 Jan. 1901

My dear Sir,

I feel much flattered
and pleased by your friend-
liness in calling. I had
hoped to return the visit
to day, and make your
acquaintance, but on reflec-
tion I have concluded
to beg you to excuse me
for a week or two longer.

I am suffering from an
aortic trouble, complica-
ted with acute neurasthe-
nia. From the latter
I am very slowly recovering,
but I find that even
a moderate amount of
talking is still bad for
me, and I improve so
long as I stick to my
rule of not paying any
visits, even to old
American friends who

are now in the City.

I know you will
pardon a "tardiness of
reaction" which has so
involuntary a cause. For
myself, I count on seeing
you before I leave Rome,
and feel sure that the
pleasure is only briefly
postponed.

Sincerely and cordially
yours,

Wm. James