

My dear Kellis:-

I was very much rejoiced to receive your communication and am only sorry that I can not reply in the same strain. There was aught said however which I feel called upon as a friend to caution you from ever repeating. My deadliest enemy in uttering the vilest imprecations could not have humiliated me and have wounded my feelings so greatly as you, my friend, have done, though peradventure unwittingly. If you wish to longer hold the esteem and friendship of one who humbly offers it, you will remember that I consider all congratulations of any nature

whatever from any source what-so-ever  
in the light of a studied personal  
insult. If it had been a stranger  
who had congratulated me for  
the summer's nearly being over, I  
would have been tempted to deal  
somewhat presumptively with  
him.

I hope you will soon write  
again and to atone for your  
congratulations you might stick  
in a few sentences of sympathy  
and condolence for me in my  
grievous and manifold afflictions.