

Chautauqua,
Sept. 13, 1887.

Yours,
Sincerely,
Edward A. Spring

Dear Judge,

"Men only associate in parties by sacrificing their opinions, or by having none to worth sacrificing; and the effect of party government is always to develop hostilities and hypocrisies, and to extinguish ideas."

So says Ruskin (Letters to Workmen and Laborers, - For's Clavigera: Letter I.)

I do not quite agree to that, for I should say rather party spirit enflames ideas and tends to make a fight over things that would be better settled in peace -

But there is a ^{stamp} ~~long~~ of poetry

I cannot express how much I enjoyed my visit - it came into my Autumn as a delightful variety -

that was printed in Littell's
Living Age many years ago—in an
article on Rural Poetry of
England.—“The author of this
should be better known” said,
^{provokingly,} the writer of the article, ^{and I wish I could find his name.}
and certainly it expresses a
most attractive picture of an
abode of ~~peace~~ ^{quiet} and love.

“For peace was in the cottage
and the fold,
From court intrigue and
party bickering far.”
Beneath the Chestnut tree love's
tale was told,
And to the tinkling of the
light guitar
Sweet stooped the ~~Western~~ ^{Rom.}
Sweet rose the evening star.”

To avoid “party

bickering” has been a watch-
-word in my ear ^{ever since reading that;} ~~from long~~
before the time ^{when} I started in
to vote (for Lincoln) as the
grandest privilege I had ever
enjoyed—as an American.
For I felt it was then that I in
fact assumed the sovereignty which
my American manhood entitled
me to.

Some remarks of yours,
dear Sir, have drawn my attention
to the value of party— but
I want to learn more about
the true duties and limitations.

There is undoubtedly in the
American heart a vast fund of
loyalty— but—loyalty to what?
We do not have very definite ideas
as to the nature of that to which

we would be true -

"Liberty!" a good watchword,
- but liberty from what?

We hardly know - "Hurrah
for Liberty! all the same!"

Surely, as Americans, we
ought to be better taught.

I hope you are all
prospering and that Miss Lodie
enjoys her Westfield school.

I had the pleasure of a
call at my studio from Mrs.
Kilburn - but, when I called
to see her and pay my respects
she had gone -

If any of you should drive over
during this week or part of next
you may find me at my studio
or at the '84 Class Home, where I now lodge.