

April 8th 1889

Dear Mr. Tourge:

Thank you very much for letting me read Mr. Bain's letter about Frank O'Brien. It is indeed hard to think of so young and so active a man being reconciled to death, even — still more welcoming it. It is hard to think of because it is painful — but it is harder for me because I simply cannot understand it. The longing for Heaven of an aged saint — or carelessness of death of or of any other consequence involved in enterprise or duty on the part of anyone — then I can understand; but not desire for death as a relief from earthly care or disappointment. Very likely it is my constitutional "duck's back" that unfit's me to enter into the feelings of those who cannot so easily shed trouble and worry; but I am sorry for their sorrow, which has a reality for them if not for me.

But I cannot think of Frank's feeling, as Mr. Bain describes it, as being other than a passing one, fastened on him during a time of physical weakness, and I cannot think of his death as other than the untimely taking off of a bright young man, with life and reputation and usefulness and happiness before him. So I shall mourn him.

I wish I could help your perplexity regarding the Centennial show by offering to see you placed and comfortable; but an unattached "young" uncle will have his hands more than full. It is likely to be a most unholy crowd - and as Yankee Doodle "couldn't see the town because of all the houses", many persons cannot see the process because of all the people. I'd rather go fishing, myself.

It has been on the cards for me to go to Phila. for a day - any time during the past three weeks; but it has had many postponements, and "sine die" is the present condition of the adjournment. Faithfully Yours,
H. W. R. Howard

(3)

P.S. I havent read the Forum article yet - the printer has not yet sent me the copy he steals for me every month ~~week~~ - I must stimulate his Conscience!

Do you see the N. A. Review? Dr. Searle, who writes this month on the "Idiosyncrasies of Alcohol" is my cousin & physician - the only point of my mentioning which is to recall, apropos of what Mr. Bain writes regarding the Allopaths & Homoeopaths, who attended Frank, Dr. Searle's deliberate statement to me, that he regarded every death from pneumonia as a distinct sacrifice to allopathy. My brother Joe's daughter Rose brought pneumonia home from Washington, & though a very fragile girl, was pulled through by Dr. Helmuth & his tinctures & pellets.

(N.)