

185 Clark St. Room 9

Chicago June 28/90

My dear Judge,

'Tis hot, as Henry Ward Beecher remarked from his pulpit on memorable occasion "tis damn'd hot". I am perusing your article in to-day's *Inter Ocean* & I can't quite agree with you on the point you make, to your mind, unquestioned; "When midnight of the fourth of July shall come, no thoughtful man can doubt that the American people, as a whole, will be weaker in body, poorer in pocket & more shaky in nerve than they were 24 hours before." What shall we gain to counterbalance this unquestionable loss?

Pardon me. I think you are wrong many may be tired, not from an overuse of intoxicating stimulants, but from an excess of enjoyment, that hurts no one, does not make the nerves shaky, but on the contrary fits the tired system for a good night's rest & a refreshing feeling in the morning. I don't think we people are so bad, we may many of us partake of intoxicating drinks & occasionally some may partake too freely, but we are not so thoroughly lost to sense of honor, duty & morality as many of the narrow-minded prohibitionists would be glad to make out to suit their prejudicial ideas of what people should do, that is, to have them do as they would wish. As to the celebration of Washington's birth-day, we may have, to a large extent, have outgrown it. If we would wish we could make two new national holidays

2. I would suggest the celebration of the birth-  
day of Abraham Lincoln, & the birth day of Genl  
U.S. Grant. I thoroughly agree with you as to the  
celebration of "Decoration Day". I don't recollect  
jubilation on that day, our democratic citizens, were  
to the President elected by that party (& the dough-  
face negroes) can "go a fishing". This people  
are working people, an industrious people, & they  
play as heartily & as industriously as they work,  
we must expect that many of them will take  
advantage of all holidays, & we have fewer  
holidays than any civilized nation on earth to  
find enjoyment in their peculiar way & in the  
practice of their peculiar & thoroughly national  
game, prominent of course, is base ball.

But, your ideas of the celebration of  
the "4th" I heartily concur in, don't let us drop the  
celebration of that day. it brings to the mind of  
some portion of our people the rights of country &  
flag, by all means, keep it up. I read with great  
satisfaction your idea of a National Election Law.  
You are right & sound as a dollar, not an 80¢  
one, on that point. Of what article could be  
put in the hands of every Representative &  
every Senator in Congress they would have  
nothing to be ashamed of if they made a law  
on that basis. If they don't pass a Compulsory  
Nat. Election Law, not a law that shall be enforced  
only in certain places, under certain circumstances,  
they will make a mistake & any law that they may  
pass that shall be used only conditionally will fail  
of its object. God knows this country needs more than  
anything else at the present time, a compulsory Nat.  
Election Law.

Very respectfully,  
Your friend  
R. B. Hall

July 1861  
William H. Murray  
New York