

Personal

J. Thomas Fortune Esq -

Dear Sir:

Your letter endorsing one from Mrs. Mayo, is received and I return the letter herewith.

I have no park in the room which has been stowed up over the subject, though I have heard a good deal of it. For a "secret" it seems very badly kept considering the number that are engaged in holding it down.

So far as Miss Empey is concerned, I much suspect that Mrs Mayo's letter does not impress me favorably. If she is insane she is certainly entitled to the ordinary charity of being regarded as irresponsible. Mrs Mayo

seems to regard it as a crime.  
She insists upon the insanity, and  
would have her scourged at the  
cart's tail because of it. Judging  
from her letter, and I know nothing  
else, I should think she regarded Mrs.  
Mayo and her comfort and conso-  
lation as a matter of very great im-  
portance, as no doubt it is.

Mrs. Ingeys, no doubt overwrought  
with too great endeavor and may  
be insane. Very good men and women  
have been made so by less heroic en-  
deavor than hers. As I understand the  
matter, however, the sole evidence

of her insanity is that she wrote  
a letter admitting an infatuation  
for a man Mrs. Mayo thought she  
had no right to be written with.  
This letter it seems that Mrs. Mayo  
demanded and received from the  
creature to whom it was addressed.  
If he had been any shred of a gentle  
man he would never have permitted  
it to pass out of his hands except into  
the hands of the writer. This letter Mrs.  
Mayo seems to have persuaded among  
her associates, to have taken experts'  
opinions as to the writer's sanity and  
threatened to publish.

I cannot imagine anything more  
infamously brutal and heartless.  
Miss Turpin may have been either in-  
sane or merely silly. Nobody charges  
anything more I believe. In either case,  
she was entitled to consideration and  
to make "the good of the Cause" the pre-  
text for such brutal persecution is a  
refinement of cruelty of which a civi-  
lized age should be ashamed. To make  
her the subject of two continents' pre-  
sident suspicion ~~is~~ by writing  
letters of this sort is an act which  
ought properly to subject a man,  
having and pretence of respectability,

to the serious reprobation, let alone  
a woman who professes especially high  
aims. I know nothing in the world of Miss  
Empy except her little, single-headed  
crusade against covin, save what  
I saw in a brief visit at my home.  
Childish, trustful, single-minded, I can well  
believe that her very exaltation of purpose may  
have left her weak on some sides of her  
nature. She may have some hereditary tint,  
but whether she has or not the unceasing  
thought and labor for others was enough  
to have shaken a stronger spirit, espec-  
ially at that time when woman's nature  
is the meekest, which I judge from her ap-  
parent age may well be the case  
with her. But silly as some, no one

who pretends to any regard for those  
rights of Christian manhood and womanhood,  
for which Katherine Empey  
fought a battle, which though slight and  
indeterminate, was a poem of truth in an  
age of greed, should feel any inclination  
to pursue her with such vindictiveness  
as this letter reveals. Lillie on ~~the~~ <sup>vision</sup>  
Katherine Empey had wrought for jus=  
tice, ~~and~~ liberty and equality for all  
with a singleness of purpose and a faith  
under all discouragement which few  
can ~~find~~ pretend to rival and none  
in our time can ~~hope to~~ claim to ex=  
ceed.

So I will continue to give my loving respect to the poor woman whose fervid aspiration it was a benediction to know, and my profound contempt to the male or female jackals who would magnify themselves by blackening her good name even while admitting her irresponsibility.

As to the "Brotherhood" I had a suspicion when first told of it, that steady contemplation of a desired end had disturbed her ascertainment of the requisite means, and advised her to stick to her little work which she had in hand and let that alone. It was probably the first step in that

break down which resulted from  
over-exertion and forgetfulness of self.

It does not seem to me that either the  
English or Dutch ends of it are of any  
great potency though I would not say  
a word to discourage either. After  
all, it is not a case where it is better  
~~to be~~ ~~the~~ a live dog in which it is  
"better to be a live dog than a dead  
lion." Katherine Empson even in a  
madhouse declares better of the  
lovers of liberty and justice than al-  
most any other name "the tight  
little Island" one flourish amongst  
the living ones and daughters.

Very truly yours