Leigh Holt
(where I still "keep house" for my uncle for another 6 months)
~~Street~~ Somerset

Dear Friends both, Sept 23. 94

This is Sunday morning (Wet). There seems never a time to write & I have as it were stolen this, by excusing myself from attending morning meeting. I dont know how to best sum up all that has taken place since I wrote last. First let me say what a pleasure satisfaction I felt in seeing the Bye standers Notes appearing once more. (Second) I wish I could talk to you. I am full of a conceit about what seems to me the outcome of my (little my) persistence. I hate to feel that I am pluming myself in feathers not my own — taking personal pride in what is due to causes outside of myself. You see six years ago I sent out a circular to those whom I had already found to be interested more or less in this caste question ~~and~~ in which I put forward 2 propositions. I thought we might, if we had sufficient funds

get some of the coloured people themselves — preferably women — to come over & speak for themselves, of the injustice they suffered — secondly I proposed our publishing a small monthly newspaper in which their side of the question should be given. The money that came in was about $300.00 & we began Anti Caste, & ran it 6 years & last year ~~we~~ without funds (beyond ~~part~~ about $200.00 of my own on which to draw if we did not get it given otherwise) we got Miss Wells over. I long to know how you feel about English influence now. To me it seems as if it had helped to call out right sentiment in America — had opened up the question, made it more necessary for good people to discuss it & consider it — feel the urgency of it — more willing to listen to the coloured man's cry —

I think the trouble on our committee, (brought about by Mrs Mayo's hard & distorted view of my unhappy mistake,) is about over. Mr Edwards who was editing "Fraternity" became her tool, ~~her~~ or under her influence; & being a man capable of double dealing & "back stair" intrigues, the whole movement ~~grew~~ got very near shipwreck; but he got ill — went away to rest (he was a splendid worker & debater) worn out, & before we knew where we were the news came of his death. He had been so autocratic a secretary that his death left us very much a clear field — Our Treasurer called the Council together, — they (it) summoned a general meeting of the members & about 23 or 24 persons from various parts assembled in London, elected an Exec. com^ee and to my great comfort found an influential member willing to

Hon Sec. Dr Darby
act as Sec. ~~who~~ is above every suspicion of intrigue or partisanship, & who understands & some measure a man held in considerable public esteem & has been faithful to the cause for years.
Dr W. Evans Darby is the secretary of the ~~London~~ English Peace Society. Our Chairman is Rev. Jas C. Street a vigorous ~~intellectual~~ progressive Unitarian.

Mrs M. is raging impotently up in the North of Scotland at my being in full action again ~~but~~ and she may continue, for a time, to slander me to her own circle. Some months ago She dragged the matter before the officials of Our Soc. of Friends who were dismissed the case with "surprise" that "any honourable person" should not have destroyed my letter as so immediately ~~as~~ requested to do, it having been written admittedly under a misapprehension, & every apology made. (This was rather severe from the tribunal of her own selection) John Bright's older daughter & her husband Mr W. S. Clark — both known & honoured names — signed the document with another lady of some local standing.

Her spiteful attacks continue, & will no doubt do so, but they do me little harm & have almost lost their power to give me pain — They have ~~[illegible]~~ on the other hand drawn many to me more closely in their sympathy & indignation at the unmerited nature of the assault, & made them rally round our cause with a loyalty & personal devotion they had not shown before. So I feel we are ~~very~~ wonderfully well equipped now for doing greater things than have yet been possible.

I long to know what you are doing — personally I mean. How does the battle fare? — and do you not make room in your thoughts for coming this side? If you could but come & speak your whole heart out here, what might it not do — Our whole liberal press

[illegible] had a nice happy month away. Father visits [illegible] London & [illegible] the [illegible] & our fathers' relations in Essex since they have had a succession of visitors [illegible] at intervals. I may return [illegible]

[illegible] once again (our [illegible] & return) many days. I am wonderfully rested & refreshed [illegible]

is awake & alive now, you would be heard all over the world. & it is what we now want I believe — a white American Champion of their cause to silence such creatures as [illegible] who defend injustice & inhumanity under plea of necessity & higher morality & defame the victims in order to rob them of sympathy. It wants only known that there are Americans & Americans. I hear rumours (I have no idea how to learn even of your public movements?) that you are "bringing in a bill in Ohio" — I don't know its nature even — I am quite in the dark. We must find ways of communicating. — When will you ~~have~~ (the american "party of justice" as we call you) have a paper in which your movements & aspirations shall be chronicled?

What if you & Mr. Cable should come both of you & together?

His name is much more generally known here than your own — because his novels have been circulated so widely both in our best literary circles — & also in general life — small inexpensive tasty little editions being published. I want to be widely known that he is one of the little party of justice. ~~What~~ If he could tell English people all he has written about about the Convict lease system &c it would be attentively heard. But he could not ~~talk~~ as you could talk. It is you above all others whom I want to have ~~got to come~~ speak just now. — Couldn't you manage just a month or so & no more? ~~or~~ sometime pretty soon before the ardour has all cooled down. (Our Exec meets on the 10th Oct. If you could put ~~[illegible]~~ Cable to your acceptance & name the possible date — no fear

~~But~~ as to the earnest preparations
we would make to ensure the
utmost good ~~that~~ can be got from
such a tour. — I expect I am very
wild to hope any such thing. I expect
you are killing yourself already
with electioneering battles. Are you
still "trying for a seat" as we call it
in Congress or what is your particular
effort just now. Mrs. Tourgée
must try to write to me again. I've sent
letters to her twice — & hoped I should
at least get a ~~letter~~ one mailed to her in time
for her birthday — I shall be thinking
of ~~her~~ on that day — you may be
sure. My love to her! and to Miss Kilbourn
and to the artist daughter if she is
anywhere near enough to get it. Please.
Wouldn't a rest in an English sea-side
place (Bournemouth) come in well
after your autumn (you once talked of) work if you
mean to live among us human kind
a little longer — & then a few weeks of public speaking

[illegible] still living ½ a mile fr[illegible]