JOHN R. HOWARD
174 HICKS STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

May 22, 1905

Dear Brinks! It is so difficult to say what one wishes to, when hearts are beaten down and sore, to express the feeling of a common grief which affects so many hearts. Neither human sympathy nor even Divine love will give us back our friends again here on earth; but both are sweet to us, when these inevitable hurts come crushing into our lives. I have so long known the Judge, admired, and esteemed, and loved him, that the feeling of a positive share in your sorrow is very strong with me.

The tone of your note of April 24 relieved me from a present anxiety, even though it gave but too much reason to feel that the dear man's time was to be short. And if he has been

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with suffering, I know that with
Your grief is mingled a relief, in
the knowledge that he is freed from
the ills he has so long and so
bravely borne.

I hope you received promptly
the expression of our sympathy
by Cable. All who signed "Ford," when
both his & Ford friends are on
the other side, it seemed sure
that it would convey the personal
expression from Hallett and
Bell and me.

A varied and useful and
stirring career the man surely
had — beyond what most men
attain to. His studies; the war;
the Southern residence and influ-
ential part in great events; his
writings — a powerful element
in arousing dormant sentiment
of righteousness in the North, and
full of interest, originality, and
shrewd humor, with certain touches
of delicate feeling that added a
charm beyond the wideness of power;

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his life abroad, with capable and honorable Representation of the nation's interests — all these make up a record to be proud of. And how much you two were to him, not only in his heart and affections but in his many labors — especially, of course, his arm-in-arm companion of many years — no one but he could know, although we others do have certainty of much. — A strong man: a good man: his work done, his rest well won!

I must thank you, dear Mrs Fonsegée, for the papers you kindly sent me, concerning President Lincoln's Bordeaux visit, and the other, Le Courrier Européen in which I found much of interest. They served, too, to keep you in mind, and I have thought of you all very often with deep sympathy. You will, of course, let me — or any of us — know if there is anything that we can do here to serve you or Miss Aimée. Whatever may be your plans now, will be of great interest for us to learn, and in the course of time I shall hope to hear from you.

My Mother and my Wife send kindliest remembrances, and so does

Your ancient & faithful friend,

S. Conant