



Feb. 4. '89.

Dear Howard,

I have just got  
 time to send you a few lines  
 before going to Hall. Mackinder  
 & myself have just come from a  
 lecture by Tylor (author of Primitive  
 Culture) whose name I dare say  
 you will know on "The arts of  
 civilization". He has been dealing  
 with palaeo & neolithic implements: perhaps  
 the most interesting part is the practical  
 when he sits down & shows how these  
 men actually made their implements

or at least how they can be made.

I have just discovered Bernard  
gazing in an abstract manner into  
space sitting opposite to me but I  
can't catch his eye.

There is a great deal in the way of general  
literature which one would like to read  
but cannot possibly do with Spenser on.

In addition to my ordinary work I am  
just doing a little original investigation  
if it may be dignified by ~~calling~~ any such  
name as it only concerns what in  
ordinary language would be called a  
little bug. It is strange how in

nothing at service you get to regard  
little things as being of great  
importance at all events for the  
time being + there is some danger  
in giving one's life to such work  
that details will become a ruling  
passion. Still Englishmen

appear to be much less liable to  
being possessed by such ideas than  
do Germans more especially.

Tomorrow the old fight of invention  
is being renewed here when the  
'anti' people will do their best to  
prevent the raising of money to build  
Prof. Sanderson's lab. There seems to



be some chance of their succeeding  
unfortunately as numerous country  
parsons have been whipped up for the  
occasion. I trust it won't be many

years before Goldwin Smith's idea of only  
allowing Honours men go on for their M.A.  
& thus obtain a vote is carried out.  
Pass men ought at all events to have a  
further space for the M.A. just as at  
Victoria.

Last week we had Hyndman &  
Morris lecturing here on "Constructive  
Socialism": of course they did not meet  
with very much sympathy but the  
people & men in the Varsity are quite  
willing to discuss matters fairly. Still

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among just those who own or will  
own property such a scheme is hardly  
likely to find favour. Their plan  
seems to be to allow present holders to  
keep property until death when it  
passes to the state: at all events  
they would prevent the accumulation  
by individuals of such capital as is  
now in the hands of the wealthy  
classes. They must I suppose  
go to an extreme to attract attention  
& Hyndman distinctly states that  
their present object is to excite discontent  
among the lower classes for as he says



until such discontent is aroused  
nothing will be done.

Of course these people are aiming  
at an end which could only be  
achieved + perpetuated under ideal  
circumstances which neither have or  
probably ever will have existed: still  
it is absurd to try + hush up the  
matter so such treatment would only  
lead to a sudden disturbance in some  
future time.

Injustice has been done in the past  
& amends will have to be done in  
the future to land owners before things  
are at all satisfactory.

The one point seems to me to be  
can we anyway alter our present  
state of competition which appears to  
rule everything: at the present time  
it does look as if one class were gaining  
happiness at the expense of another yet  
it is extremely difficult to see how  
a sudden empoverishment of property would  
bring part of this to the one class  
would set matters right. I  
should like to see co-operation take  
the place of competition: there would  
be less profit for the masters + fewer  
huge premiums made but the conflict  
between labour & capital would fade

away + the general happiness would  
decidedly increase.

George is I hear coming to stay with  
the Max Muller's next week in Oxford &  
so he may perhaps lecture.

Now I must close. Please give my  
love to Emily to whom I will write as  
soon as I can but time is short +  
I spend all odd times in reading divinity  
works here.

Thank you for sending the law notices  
to Lillie: she has gone to Bristol today  
to stay with friends & won't be in Woodley  
Vill nearly Easter.

W.R.S.