Feb. 4, 1888

Dear Howard,

I have just got home after a lecture before coming to Italy. Macguire and myself have just come from a lecture by Tylor (author of Primitive Culture) whose name I don't 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 and shows how these men actually made their implements.
or at least how they can be made.

I have just discovered a new form of gazing in an abstracted manner into space sitting opposite to one 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 exams on.

In addition to my ordinary work I am just doing a little official investigation if it may be dignified so calling any such process as it all concerns what in ordinary language would be called a little bug. It is strange how in

nothing at science you get to regard little things as being of great importance at all events for the time being, but there is some danger in giving one's life to such work that details will become a monotonous passion. Still Englishmen always to be much less liable to being possessed by such ideas than we Germans were especially.

Tomorrow the old pilot of unreserved 

is being renewed here when the 'false' people will do their best to prevent the valiant journey to bed

Dr. Sanderson's lab. These seem to
be some chance of their succeeding. 
Unfortunately as numerous country 
parsons have been whitewashed up for the 
occaision. I trust it will be many 
years before Goldoni Smith's idea of of 
setting those men go on for their M.A.
if their obtains a vote is carried out. 
Pass mean ought at all events to have a 
father spare 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 my much sympathy but the 
people, men in the varsity are quite 
will ing to discuss matters fairly. Still
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Among just those who own a will own property such a scheme is hardly likely to find favour. Their place 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: as he says
until such discontent is around. Nothing will be done.

It seems as if there is an end which could only be
achieved and perpetuated under ideal
circumstances which we cannot have or
which even will have existed. Still,
it is absurd to try and hush up the
matter as such treatment could only
lead to a sudden disturbance in some
future time.

The one point seems to me to be
if we can 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
wealth and at the expense of another; yet
it is extremely difficult to see how
sudden confiscation is possible without
raising panic. That is the risk of this. If the one class
would sell assets right, I
should like to see cooperation take
the place of competition; then we
would be less affected by the accidents which
large fortunes create but the conflict
between labour and capital would fade.
away, the general happiness would
decidedly increase.
Senge 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 Lucy & when I will write as
soon as I can but write is short &
I spend all odd times in reading daily
more work.

Thank you for sending the law notices
to Sellie; she has gone to Bristol today
to stay with friends & won't be in Woody
till nearly Easter.

W.B.