

26 Apr. 85Dear Howard

I fear it is some
time since you heard.

I have just been glancing over
your last epistle & find it extremely
political in its tendency.

My own opinion just now is that
to give in to Russia means
certain war in a very few years
when we are in a worse & they are
in a far better position. To let
them quietly take Herat seems to be

about the maddest thing possible:

further I believe that we are strong enough to resist on their withdrawing & failing him the best thing in the long run would be to leave the question fought out now. I am very far

from desiring war but think that our future peace & welfare depends upon our not giving in at the present time. There is I think not

the slightest doubt that the Colonel would get in again in November:

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unfortunately the other party has no strong man capable of leading & in Cairns have just lost about their most powerful man. However a letter is scarcely the place for politics.

~~I am glad you saw somebody the other day & hope that of course the same is away North: then perhaps weather will give us a chance of getting there & also I like your letter.~~

Allie of course is back again but
I have scarcely seen him having
been very busy especially so
since term began.

My lecturing began on Thursday
& is going on I think all right:
at all events if no one else
does I enjoy it which is perhaps
a bad sign. I felt rather
but only a little nervous during
the first half minute but after
that just all about the men &
have not thought about them since.

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I never understood before how little a lecturer had any idea of who was listening or I might have taken advantage of the same to absent myself from sundry unwelcome lectures in the earlier part of my career here.

You will doubtless have seen that Rustin has resigned → done so further in consequence of the so-called "vivisection" vote in

convocation at the end of last
Term. I think it is a

polish, almost a poetry King to
do but perhaps on the whole it
will be a blessing as his second
tenure of the Professorship here has
not been at all a success. He
has outlived his power.

Also Lowell the American minister
is mentioned as a probable applicant
for the Professorship of English.

literature and being found
here: may be got it as he
certainly will if he applies.

Of such just now is beginning
to look delightful: a few days
very seldom make such a difference
as the best few have done here:
some of our trees are in full leaf
& flower. This is the Kern

of "Sights" & "schools" & is hence an
extremely active & interesting one: in
fact it is far the most enjoyable of
the three & a thing quite unlike

everything else. However my
work does not leave me much time to
get out & I have almost cut
acquaintances save during the parts
of three afts. each week when I take
exercise in the form of tennis & on
Sabbath which really come now
as "Days of Rest" are fully
appreciated & are not spent within
more walls than can be avoided.

W.S.