

Into a portion of England
whose antiquated beliefs and
obstinate superstitions were
perhaps most marked, and
still dominant, you have
introduced that light before
which the phantoms of
superstition flee, and
groundless beliefs crumble
and fall. And this has been
not a mere destructive
process.

Not only have you
added largely to the
educational influence of
the oldest & foremost

Melcombe Horsey Rectory L1812
Dorchester Dorset
1 May 1897

Dear Sir

It is only a few days
ago I learned that you had
just completed your 70th
year, - and the reason I
did not at once write
to ask you kindly to permit
me to add mine to the
numerous congratulations
you received on that occasion,
was, that I was suffering
from a sharp attack

of Influenza, - Causing
not mere bodily prostration,
but also much accompanying
mental prostration; so
that I did not seem to
have enough faculty even
for writing a letter. But
altho' apparently a poor
forlorn belated straggler
who could not arrive at
the proper time to offer my
congratulations & good wishes,
I venture to believe that
I am no less ardent
in my respect & devotion
than the promptest and

earliest of that large company
and body of admirers, who
paid their respects and
homage punctually on the
14th April.

The congratulations you
receive & have received,
are all accompanied by
earnest hopes that you
may add a good many
more years yet to the
three-score-years & ten.
And these are not mere
conventional good wishes, -
not the mere conventional
good wishes to ordinary
men, and ordinary lives.

my respectful and earnest
wishes that for many years
to come you may still
radiate from Rushmore
that vitalising and
beneficent light; that
you may still be spared
to your family and to
science, - on wards from
three score years & ten,
to three score years & twenty,
and even onward still,
to an old age, in
which, as at the close

University of the world, ^(L1812) (2)
but in many minds around
you, and in many other
minds afar and near,
you have by one means and
another filled up large
blank vacant spaces of
ignorance, with much
positive & definite knowledge.

And without in any
wise tampering with,
or interfering with, or
loosening the standards
of right and wrong,
you have shed brightness
and instruction over the

joylessness and gloom of
the Sabbath of thousands.

I am not writing a letter
for the purpose of giving
a short selection from the
Catalogue of your good works -

A German writer did
something of that kind in
some biographical notices
of Goethe; a performance
which produced a laughing
criticism by Emerson,
who said you might just
as well begin to catalogue
the objects on which the
Sun shines. And as

the Sun illumines all
the objects which come
under its rays, - so a
radiance has for many
years past, gone forth from
Rushmore; - and it
would be as absurd as in
the case of Goethe to
attempt to indicate or
enumerate the things
& objects and people who
have rejoiced in that
beneficent light.

May I add to the
large number which
have recently reached you,

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of a long and bright
summer day your sun
will gradually sink into
the horizon surrounded
by the calm & purple
splendours of the
evening -

I remain
Faithfully & Respectfully yours
Joseph Hall

To
General Pitt-Rivers F.R.S.
do do