My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for the volume of early discoveries and adventures in Australia, and for the account of James with its curious charts, which came yesterday. Of the volume I read enough to get a few vivid pictures of a condition so strange as that it describes, but regret that the sudden severe fatigue of my eyesight after a year of special strain prevents any longer acquaintance with it. I have placed the two, together in the Harvard University library, where the maps & charts will be especially welcome. My daughter, who is just now absent, will value & thank you for the pamphlet on pro. partial voting - which I should try to underta...
struck, though my present opinion is that in a 
country like this, where voters count by millions 
and offices by many scores, any change is at-
ttempted from our present crude fashion, it will 
have to be in a very much more rough, ready, 
and much less nice. I doubt if such schemes 
and experiments ever get much beyond our studies 
in debating-clubs; and fancy that, if we have 
anything to trust, it is that on so enormous a 
scale one error will balance off another so as 
to give us a modus vivendi, with some little 
improvement as we learn by experience. Our 
great test is coming off next Tuesday, in the elec-
tion in Greater New York. Where, to us at a dis-
tance, the issue seems quite plain between honest 
government and the basest sort of machine rule.

Very respectfully, and with 
our united best wishes,

J. T. Allen.