

My dear Andreas

Your letter to hand.

On capital punishment or rather its abolition I cannot see any way clear to join your view. I read Bright's speech on the subject with some feeling of disappointment. It appeared to me to lack the vigor & logic which characterize his general utterances. I thought his illustrations were tentative only & therefore very little in advance of theory. And further his method of disposing of the question as laid down in the book of Guiseis amounted to little more than putting the book on the shelf. His speech was spoken some years ago - new light may however be shed by more

a modern exposition. I should like
to have read your Mr Taylor's
pamphlet but could not get a
copy at the time. I do not quite
see the positive force of your
number 3. The parents' immediate
relations are not removed from
the stigma of a breach of the
6th commandment having been
committed, by the fact that
capital punishment has been
~~substituted~~ ^{abolished} by a milder death.
Moreover have not the feelings
of the parents &c. of the victim
been outraged to their extreme
extent by the culprit's voluntary
act. Your No. 2 is to my mind
"more potent as an argument
if it rests upon fact."

As to presby. Lic your remarks
 are forceful, but my own impression
 is that the majority are but
 much else than the "dumb
 driven" followers of the worldly
 minded self-seeking parsons.
 Those who would have been the
 "heroes of the strife" ^{at this end} are either
 gone to the better land, or driven
 out of the pale by the action
 of an adventurer. It is only
 the other day I heard of an old
 Congregational minister speaking regretfully
 of the fact that he found he
 could get but little help from
 the young men of the day in
 movements of aggression against
 what is wrong. And no wonder
 when they are such grasping

after worldly considerations as
they are compelled to witness
in connection with these
combination acts. My opinion
is that young men of the
present day are only wise in
having as little to do in
making out organizations
indefinite parsonic rule, ^{without proper checks at hand} as
possible, i.e. if they value
their own peace of mind.
Once let them venture to dissent
from the views of the priest
and they become marked
men. One thing I was glad
to ^{see} that the Upper House
gave audience to Stone. Why
should not both sides be
heard on all questions? One

other point too I was glad to see evolved from the debate in the Upper House, that Horne's rights are conserved by the Com. Act, for it will take a great deal to convince me that the present body do not "sack the young child's life". I don't care much about the old gent's captious spirit, but I am glad to find that his interests are safe. The days of "thumb-screw & cutting stool" are gone, but the spirit is not dead. The "peace of God" as in former days means "the steel & blood fist" with many if they only dare.

I thank you for your
kindly reference to my
poor dear house. ~~For~~ With
thought that the messenger
of death was to give his
first thoudest knock at
her door, the same night
she parted so cheerfully
from you at Lampson's
gate. God knows only how
my heart has been riven
by this visitation. For 21 years
more we have journeyed
along together. Her loving
ways towards me strewn
my path with sunbeams,
and since she has left me
I have felt something of
the wilderness side of the

world. But I cannot write
long upon this subject and
therefore say farewell.

Remember me to Mrs.
Clark & the other members
of your family.

Yours sincerely
Maurice Dixon

(30/9/78)

p.s. Excuse my hasty
scribble.

M.D.