

2 Balmoral Terrace
 St Vincent Place &
 Melbourne
 26 May 1855.

My dear Padre,

With this letter
 will arrive, via Wood, the
 dilatory Rosmini, Vols: II & III.
 The cause of the delay was
 that Huller's people got
 mixed up about the address,
 altho I gave it to them
 plainly enough in writing
 and therefore they did not
 send them.

I duly received the papers
 you have forwarded me, for

which accept my best thanks.
I am also in receipt of
your last letter - I intended
to have asked Watters yesterday
about the Man's Registers, but
as things turned out I
did not go up to the
Church - I will take the
earliest opportunity of making
this enquiry - Yesterday Octavio
Hollingham was the subject of
his discourse - I heard both
Emerson & Parker - Emerson
seemed to me rather a scanty
affair but Parker was better,
and fairly brought out his
leonine qualities - Affairs in
connection with the Social
Union are disappointing - In
my last I mentioned I was
getting a paper on the stocks.

To my surprise an elaborate programme suddenly came out plotting out matters up to Sept next, I had probably been forgotten in the matter a thing, which I must confess gave me little concern -

The first meeting on ^{the programme} by a ^{Welsh} Morgan was a paper on Hamlet, and one on Mrs Browning by J.G.

I took J.G. to this meeting, which was held in the Church. Morgan, a hard, prosaic, middle aged man with a ^{hair} short beard and his upper lip shaved, occupied the pulpit for an hour and a half with a terribly dreary and commonplace production in which he went through the whole play, and read

at intervals the stock
quotations, such as "The
Soliloquy", Polonius address to
Laertes winding up with
the "Innie scene" - Alorgau's
pronunciation was peculiar -

"Denmark" became Denmark
remarkable, remarkable. In
quoting from Goethe (whom
he called "Gotty") he spoke
about an oak tree set in
a jar - this was not a
dental operation - he meant
"jar" - Courtier became
"cowteer" - & so on -

It became too late for G
to read that evening so
it was adjourned to the
next meeting - I did not
go to this meeting, but
G. is a member of

grief and rage since that
 event - This meeting was
 held in the Manchester Hall
 Swinston St, and the audience
 was principally made up of
 people not connected with
 the Church - Some songs
 and readings were indulged
 in, in the course of which
 one individual wore a mask
 while he sang a concert
 hall ditty - The evening
 festively closed with dancing!
 Poor Miss G was sandwiched
 between this and her paper
 was a distressing failure -
 the surroundings made her
 so nervous that her voice
 failed her and the audience
 displayed its ^{own} disgust, in a
 coarse blunt, such as a Victorian
 audience, even of higher

pretensions than this one
can do to nearly perfection.
When she returned to her seat
Mr Walters coolly informed
her that nobody heard her
and the thing was altogether
too slow. Now, without
entering into the merits of
H.G.'s paper of which I know
nothing it was clearly wrong
on Walters part to place her
in such a situation. If
he thinks it advisable to
get up such entertainments
in the name of the Unitarian
Church and take the "bobs"
of Jack Tom & Harry and
provide them with the means
for laughter and a hop,
he ought to have had tact
enough to prevent anybody
introducing anything beyond

the scope and taste of the
audience - I am always glad to
see improvement spread in
what politicians call a
"vertical direction". My
democracy has strengthened since
I have been in Victoria. But
in regard to the Unitarian Church
I thought this Social Union
was to be a brotherhood of
those who were spiritually
& intellectually interested
in the progress of
the Church, and not
such a thing as this. Mr
Waters may fill the Church
to overflowing by seeking
popularity in this way, but
it lacks the dignity and the
communion which some of
us think essential to the
development of free religious thought.

I have not space in this
letter to speak of your letters
and address - The second letter
on Tom Paine shored me very
much. It made mince-meats
of Greenwood. But these Wesleyans,
both laity and clergy, are
such Hippotami, that the
shaft of Apollo would hardly
make them swince - Rest for
the present in the assurance
that such work as this
cannot be in vain -

Please give my affectionate
greetings to Mrs. C. Emmy,
Alec, Anco & Goring - I
shall buy and write Madre
a letter before long - My health
continues good, but Walter's I
am sorry to say remains very
feeble - Tell Willie I am awaiting
a letter from him - paternal regards
to him, Gobbie, Ivey & others and
Believe me ever yours
A. G. H. H. H.