

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 <sup>the programme</sup> by a <sup>Welsh</sup> 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 <sup>harsh</sup> 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 jaw - This was not a  
dental operation - he meant  
"far" - Courtier became  
"cowteer" - & so on -

It became too late for G  
G to read that evening so  
it was adjourned to the  
next meeting - I did not  
go to this meeting, but  
G.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 <sup>own</sup> 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 mincemeat  
of Greenwood. But these Wesleyans,  
both laity and clergy, are  
such Hippotami, that the  
shaft of Apollo would hardly  
make them wince - 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, Ance & 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.