

Ms. Paines 67 Great Russell St. 54  
Bloomington, W.C.

My dear young friend,

Feb. 15. /67.

I hope you will never again make such a mistake  
in your notation as to think that silence can ever  
be expressed in any other way than this

Retraction = - writing. -  
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I am sure if I could be guilty of "misunderstand-  
ing" you with the slightest cause or reason - or rather  
with any cause & reason to the contrary - the sooner  
or disposal of me by accident the better! (The  
Misses proceeding I fear would not much enrich you!).  
We are here I am sorry to say another week - a very  
dentistic protraction - & I am sure you will feel  
with Mrs. Webb in her troubles. I am down to duty  
tomorrow - back Monday. You know how delighted I  
should be to see you - but I must say no more about that.  
We have as yet seen nothing of you neither of Mrs.  
Newcomb - & scarcely anyone else - Mrs. Lyath  
has not been at home - she will be back however I  
hope on Monday. - All the news I hear is that Hodges  
has given some offence in opposing the Doubleday Medal  
of the year, & has been (an unprecedented thing) turned  
out of Secretaryship & Council both - Higgins succeed-  
ing in the former place. - I know Daws considered

Stodger an unfair man, but D. had nothing to do  
with this. I went a Tuesday evening to Dietz who  
seems to be getting on capitally & going in for a great deal  
of matter not to be found in any of the Moon-books - he  
desired me to tell you how greatly indebted he felt to you  
(or somebody with that effect) about the Liberator's business  
which it seems to me will now be set forth in a new  
light. (and you ought to have some of the credit of it.)

I see Chambers has just sent news of a Court-  
martial very bright & going away from  $\odot$  &  $\oplus$  so not  
very much for Staggins. I do so want him to have  
a good thorough handling of one of those men.  
Has he been at work in 50 ~ 61 or sh? has he had  
some marvellous results - (or even in 62.) you see  
how he goes into Sechi about that queen <sup>star</sup>  
in Cepheus. What wonders are wonders on wayside!

With you on hand. I saw a grand 2 1/3 inch  
disc being figured for DeLakue, what Steinheil  
all to smash. -

I am glad you did not see the horrible bonnet case  
(the type of human butchery) carried through the streets  
of London on Monday. It was a sorrow to witness it - &  
to hear the Marseillaise - & to see stars & stripes to  
hear Yankee Doodle. - The shame of OD England  
you wait you with me now - but you will I think  
some day: - perhaps when I am out of it all. -

How I wish you had time to read Clarinda! -  
But I must be at the Menema Micrometrica &  
other things & your letter will wait. We must be  
I remain your friend

Always your affectionate J. W. Webb

My dear Mother

I do wish you were  
coming to London next  
week - What a treat it  
would be to see you  
again! We stay here  
till the end of next  
week - I mean to call  
on your dear Mother  
I must only add  
best love from  
every affate  
J. W. Webb