

To Frank Fuller  
5-30 October 1868 • Hartford, Conn.  
(MS: CLjC)

If a man were to signify however which he was not & could not if he had the power, which being denied him he will endeavor anyhow, merely *because* he don't, would *you*? I should think not

Good-bye,  
Yrs always,  
Mark.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This manuscript fragment survives among Fuller's personal papers and was presumably addressed to him. The top half of the single sheet (written on one side only), which contained between thirty and sixty words, has been cut away. Fuller wrote an undated note on the verso of the backed manuscript: "This puzzling paragraph was evidently cut from something which Mark decided not to send me. F F." The letter was written sometime before the last two months of 1868, for the text of the first surviving sentence (lacking only "& could not") appeared in a 28 November San Francisco newspaper item, which read in its entirety:

MARK TWAIN ON MORAL SCIENCE.—Some one sent the following "question in moral science" to Mark Twain for solution, and, after working on it for three weeks, Mark submits it to Judge Charles F. Cady, of Illinois:

"If a man were to signify, however, which he was not if he had the power, which being denied him he will endeavor anyhow, merely *because* he don't, would *you*?" (San Francisco *Examiner*, 28 Nov 68, 1).

The stationery, ink, and handwriting of the manuscript are virtually identical to those of the previous two letters, both written from Hartford—an indication it too might have been written on 5 October. It was probably written no later than 30 October, the last day Clemens spent in Hartford before returning to New York, where he had no need to write to Fuller. It is likely, but not certain, that the San Francisco *Examiner* reprinted the item from a still-unidentified eastern newspaper. Fuller was a likely source for such an item: it was he who earlier gave the New York *Evening Telegram* information gleaned from one of Clemens's 1867 letters (see 24 Nov 67 to Fuller, n. 6)

To Edward L. Burlingame  
7 October 1868 • Hartford, Conn.  
(Cyril Clemens, 18)

148 Asylum St.,  
Hartford, Conn., Oct 7.

Dear Ned—

I am here, getting out a book. I saw your father & mother & Gerty often in New York—& also Mr. Brown of the Legation. We all concocted a Treaty article together, for the *New York Tribune*.<sup>1</sup>

Do you remember your Honolulu joke?—"If a man compel thee to go with him a mile, go with him Twain." I have closed many & many a lecture, in many a city, with that. It always "fetches" them.<sup>2</sup> Send me your Picture—I enclose mine.<sup>3</sup>

Your friend,  
Mark Twain.

<sup>1</sup> See 3 Aug 68 to Fairbanks, n. 1. "Gerty" was Edward's sister, Gertrude

<sup>2</sup> Clemens himself had been recently "fetched" by Burlingame's joke. After Clemens's second lecture in Virginia City, the *Territorial Enterprise* reported that he

was yesterday made the recipient at the hands of Mr Conrad Wiegand, the well known assayer, of a very beautiful and highly-polished silver brick, worth some \$40. The brick bears the following inscription: "Mark Twain—Matthew, V: 41—Pilgrim." All our readers will recollect at once that the verse referred to reads as follows: "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain." Twain would never object to going even farther, if sure of getting a fellow to the bar presented him by Mr. Wiegand, and provided he was furnished a seat in a good, easy-going and softly-cushioned carriage ("A Neat and Appropriate Present," 29 Apr 68, 3)

Eventually, however, Clemens grew tired of the joke, saying in 1906:

When it was new, it seemed exceedingly happy and bright, but it has been emptied upon me upwards of several million times since—never by a witty and engaging lad like Burlingame, but always by chuckle-heads of base degree, who did it with offensive eagerness and with the conviction that they were the first in the field. (AD, 20 Feb 1906, CU-MARK, in *MTA*, 2:125)

<sup>3</sup> The enclosure has not been found, but it was probably a small, *carte de visite* print of the Bradley and Rulofson photograph recently made in San Francisco, rather than an "imperial-size" print of the one taken in Cleveland (see 1 and 5 May 68, n. 7, and 24 Sept 68, n. 3, both to Fairbanks).

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