

September 5, 1846
Elihu Burritt to "My Dear Sir"

[Addressee unknown]

Bristol [Connecticut]
Sept 5 1846

My Dear Sir

I have been so absorbed in getting the League of Universal Brotherhood under fair way, that I have been obliged to neglect my duty to many of my correspondents. I received the copy of the Prospective Review with the critique upon Sumner's oration and the principles and probability of peace [illegible] I am so affected by such [illegible] of godless sophistry, especially from those who should lead the people in the way of all truth, that I could not set down seriously to refute an argument of the kind. That class of community represented by the reviewer constitute what is called sometimes "the upper crust" of society. This is the right term, but they are a crust of ice, whose influence is to bind the currents of progress. They are to the people what the thickest ice of winter is to a pond or lake of water. And when they "fall in" to a popular movement, they "fall in" as the ice falls in when the water that has sustained it escapes by some forced egress. They "fall in" like ice cubes and float on the current which they would pretend to lead. Such men never will "fall in" to the peace movement until the people are drawn off from under them, -- there they will fall in and float on the popular current just like ice cubes, boasting as they are borne along that they are leading the current. For myself I had just as soon convert a poor peasant to the new peace principles as one of "the upper crust" of society. Through my editorial course this far I have never engaged in a regular set to of logical pugilism, and would almost as soon expect to decide an argument by the fist as the pen in a drawn battle. By the silent diffusion of peace principles amongst the people these metaphysicians of the "upper crust" will be as sure to "fall in" as the ice where the water has run away from under it. I thank you kindly for your courtesy and accommodation. You will I am sure rejoice with me at the success that has crowned my feeble efforts in promotion of Universal Brotherhood. Every thing goes on beyond my most sanguine expectations. The League has already become fixed fact. [Illegible] of England, France and the United States [have?] already enrolled [thousands?] as members. The "Bonds" are being introduced into Sunday Schools. I hope to get 20,000 of each no. into circulation here, and 20,000 in America - the first international periodical ever issued.

Yours truly,

Elihu Burritt