

January 5, 1862  
Elihu Burritt to Elias Lane

No 57 Herbert Street, Islington [London]  
Jan. 5, 1862

My Dear old Friend,  
Elias Lane.

Right glad was I to see your handwriting again, to know that you still held in pleasant remembrance the days of "auld lang syne." I shall be, indeed, most happy to visit Christchurch again & to see your face and the faces of your dear ones in your own home. I should like much to meet an audience of your people, however small, and to endeavor to entertain them on some topic. As your town is at considerable distance from London, I should like to visit a few other places in your vicinity, and give them a lecture. This would diminish the expense at each point. Do you think you could assist in getting a few engagements for me in your neighborhood – say at Wimbleton, Poole, & Dorchester, or in any other towns or villages in which you may be acquainted? – With regard to terms, we will make them perfectly easy for every point. I suppose in most cases, a small charge at the door for admission would be made. After paying out of the proceeds of "the house" all expenses for hall, bills, etc, I would accept that proportion of the balance which the society or institute might be disposed to give me, and would be perfectly satisfied, whether it were 10/- , £1, 2 or £3.

I should feel distressed if I should make any society a farthing the poorer for my visit.

I have only 3 lectures on hand at the present time which I should be willing to deliver in England. They are entitled

1. "The Higher Law and Mission of Commerce."
2. The Physiology of Nations.
3. "The Benevolent Associations of the Day – Their Philosophy and Power."

The first would probably be regarded as the most popular lecture, or the best adapted to a miscellaneous audience – the last is more of a religious caste, and is especially adapted to Young Men's Christian Associations, or to a religious audience.

If your time would admit of it, I should be much obliged to you if you would get me a few engagements in the towns or villages in your part of the country – which would occupy me [a] good part of a week. Thus the travelling expense would be spread over several points, and be small at each.

With my best regards  
To your home circle  
I am Ever & Truly Yours  
Elihu Burritt