

March 31, 1867
Elihu Burritt to Elihu Burritt Lane

Birmingham [England]
March 31/[67?]

My Dear Young Friend, [to Elihu Burritt Lane, son of Elias Lane]

I lost the letter you wrote me on the loss of my pocket book, and I could not remember your address, or I should have written you long before this. So a few days ago, I wrote to your father, and have just received a letter from him, telling me your place of business. I thank you very heartily for your letter of sympathy with me in my loss. I was glad to know you remembered me, as your name would of course remind you of me. I can hardly realize that you were born since I first came to England in 1846; and that you now, I suppose, are 21 or nearly that. I feel a good deal of responsibility in giving, as it were, a name to a young man, who is to wear it through life. I hope I may do nothing to make you regret that you wear the name. I feel my life of labour is drawing to a close, but hope to be doing something for the good for my fellow beings while I live. I will send you one of my books before long, and hope you will find some thoughts on it which may be suggestive and helpful. I wish you every blessing in this life; and "hope you will be a useful man and do good in the world." These were the words my dying mother left for me; and in some degree I have tried to carry them out, to realize her wish. There are three young men called after me in England, of whom I believe you were the first. I hope and pray you may all be good and useful men in the world and blessed and happy in the world to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Elihu Burritt

[Note on the date of this letter: Elihu Burritt Lane would have been 21 years old in 1867, 21 years after Burritt arrived in England in 1846].