

May 4, 1867  
Elihu Burritt to Messrs. Bigelow Kennard & Co.

Birmingham [England]  
May 4 1867

Messrs. Bigelow Kennard & Co.

Gentlemen

Messrs S. Buckley who of this town have kindly enclosed in a case or box of goods directed to you, a package of my books for the Worcester Co. Mechanics Library, which as formerly a Worcester mechanic, I have presented to that institution. I should be very greatly obliged to you if you will kindly post them on the way to Worcester by some express co. I believe it is a law or regulation enacted by Congress that all books presented to regular incorporated libraries are admitted free of duty. I have stated this in the directions written on the package and I am confident that the collector of Customs at Boston will not charge duty upon them. But in case he should insist upon charging such duty, I shall be greatly indebted to your generous kindness if you will pay it, and let me reimburse you through Messrs S. Buckley, & Co. or direct by post. For I should be greatly mortified if a present of my own books to the Worcester Mech. Library should be saddled with any such charge, or any charge at all. The real value of the books or publisher's price to the trade, is about \$5; and if a duty is put upon them, I shall be exceedingly grateful if you will pay it, and let me repay you in the way indicated.

If you will do me this favor, I shall feel repaid for many things I have done for Americans in connection with the office as Consular Agent in this town.

I am truly yours,

Elihu Burritt