

nothing the Neathmetes have said - 3 words, if I should say, but  
as end to estuary, geology, & every other science which could be made  
subservient to this kind of ability. He wishes there was to be gaining ground,  
& we always, well desired by the specious part of mankind, & as their advocates,  
are calculating, to regulate creation with a regard to them, I am sure that one of  
his own sense should, out of mere love, & pleasure, & indifference to truth, have

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1877

Mr. Holland

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Brookfield

London

entitled to account them. You have one word in your story, to wit  
that there comes in mind with them. They are great exaltations of  
distances. We are all well, & shall be glad to see you when it is convenient.  
I shall not go to town till about the 20th & then probably for one night only.  
My minister would lead me to commit myself to the case of England: but this I fear they will never  
be any of us, the present is sufficient. I am yours &c.

Brookfield Sept. 4.

My dear Holland,

I am not at all surpris'd that Palgrave's book  
does not please at Holland House. Independently of the tone  
of conversation, & that <sup>they think</sup> or far worse, of religion that  
permeates it, the manner is too much out of the common,  
or, as Dr. Keble calls it, too shopworn, to  
sell it with the taste of that family. Two out of three  
have a most striking deficiency of imagination; & the  
third, who perhaps rather more, has had his taste,  
early in life, cramped by the French school. There are  
nevertheless several volumes in P.'s volume, which  
I think is scarce enough to detect his partiality, he should



an unwomanly readiness of memory, which furnishes her with  
ingenious analogies to support a paradox, & does not give herself  
time to weigh both sides of a question. And this is accomplished  
with a good deal of vanity, as the book shows too fully.

Her attacks on the Copernican system is very superficial,  
& can only show him - being urged in a presumptuous  
manner, & by a man who does not know the first elements  
of geometry. But P. is also very rash in subjects he really  
does not understand, of which there is a strange instance in p. 148  
of her book; & the worst of this is, that it takes off  
from that confidence we should otherwise place in her learning  
& regular accuracy. With all this fault, however, I quite  
cannot ~~read~~ in your opinion that it is agreeable reading,  
& shows a mind & above to no prejudice but its own.

The idola speciei are generally better than the idola fori.

Of these idola fori I find too much in Bacon's article on  
Bacon, which has disapproved me. Some passages really  
good; but the style is far too cut up into pointed sentences &

dry letters. The positions are dogmatically asserted, & men led to  
carry the argument that the informed reader. It is easy to seem  
possible by saying down unlimited propositions, either as to  
theory or fact, without care about their truth; a least that  
Mr. L. master has brought by these thirty years. (But I should  
doubt the low Aristotelian doctrine it contains; but, I think,  
in itself, & false, in its extent, as applied to Bacon. And  
as he has so merit in the inductive philosophy, & cannot  
suppose that Bacon made any useful discoveries in science himself,  
we hardly see why he exalts him as to great a philosopher.

It seems to be rather for the sake of depreciating Plato's moral  
<sup>as well as metaphysical</sup> philosophy in general. It is plain that Mr. L. has read Bacon's  
works; & does not know the meaning of induction, especially  
as opposed to the old enumerative induction; or why does he say that  
he has not the author of that mode of logic? His censure, a  
man who writes an induction to make pages by an inductive  
process, as a proof that this is old fashion to those who have  
had the Mr. Bacon, is laughable, and evidently a specimen  
of the method of reasoning we do not mean original discoveries, but collected  
from an extensive experience of what has been found contrary  
to the investigation of truth. The worst of all, however, is  
the use of the system - retaining good the spirit of intellectual  
prowess to more physical consciousness. It is much more than