

in the right & the mingling up of a matter
in which you seem best to have no case with
a matter in which you have a very good one
has been a mistake. I regret if you saw my
brother in law the new Bishop of Oxford when
you were with us. I am coming from his home
which is a very good one with beautiful grounds
about it - but it has been a great loss to us his
leaving Devonshire & the position of a Bishop is
causing too in untidy matters at any rate
what it was 30 years ago - His pleasant presence
was a man so good & simple as he is tending
himself to great work with no pretension & no
nonsense. We are in the midst of Education
bills in Parliament of which I think I should
see the end - we hear in the Debates that you
have your words too - I hope - Pray let
me hear from you - still better let us see you.

Always most sincerely yours

J. D. Loening

JOHN DUKE COLE RIDGE

Widdowson Palace. Palm Sunday. 1870.

My dear Mr. May.

Your statement is perfectly just - but I have
never sent you a letter - a word of letter for a long
time - so long indeed that I think I must almost
pledge the Statute with success. But I thank you
heartily for your kind forbearance upon the letter you
have written long I said the moderate cause
of it had been less sad. I am glad to hear at
the same time on the same subject & my father had
a most beautiful & noble letter from old Mr. Bony
written with all the Christian dignity kept deep
feeling which one might expect from such a man. I
have heard from him myself some time & I fear
from his letter that the blow has gone deeper & will
be a heavier calamity on him than even in
nature we should expect. Yet I can hardly wonder
Horace Binney was indeed a wonderfully noble
man. I knew personally (he by personal
introduction) not very much of him. He was in
England in 1854 & was a good deal in my
father's home for a few weeks. Saw him
afterwards on the circuit and I remember for
a few hours he being come to see father & I.

William Beathole also loved him. Since then
I never saw him but we wrote pretty steadily
to one another & I heard of him from common
friends many of whom I owed to his introduction.
But the beauty & tenderness of his character
made him very dear to me & I do not know
any man whose loss has been more felt by me
since I heard of it. Of course plunged up to the
throat in professional & parliamentary work the
same that I feel as I can give brief & little scope
but I really think not a day has past but his
loss has not come to me with a feeling of
kindred sadness & now & then a pang of keen
regret that I made no more of his friendship, which
God spared him to us. I know how affectionately
& cordially he valued & regarded you & I can
easily imagine what his death must be to those
who knew him so daily as some of you in
Philadelphia were privileged to do. Have you
ever read the lines which Henry Taylor the
cousin of Philip van Alstedde wrote upon the
death of his friend Ernest Villiers. They are
in his Poems. If you do not know them you
will I think thank me for directing you

attention to them & you will find a most
wholly inadequate & inaccurate account of dear
Ernest Villiers & of the height of a loving heart
upon his loss.

I can hardly learn with comfort to the subject
yet as I am unwell again I will ask you when
you write again, what I hope in mercy you
will do, to tell me how you are getting on & whether
there is any chance of our seeing you again in
Miss County. You will have a most hearty
welcome. It is that & even with steamer
distances are long & I do hope you will come to
us before many years are out. As to my coming
to America which I used to hope for the prospect
is very dim; for kind but I am in office it is
impossible for me to leave England & I think
as far as I can judge the Ministry will stand
for some time yet. I trust the feeling between
the two countries is gradually improving. Some
day or other I hope we shall settle our Alabama
troubles. We are in the wrong about it &
always were & we ought to say so. In the other
matter I think & have always thought we were