Sept. 26, 1876.

My dear Sir,

Your letter gave me more pleasure than I can tell you. Nothing is more disheartening than the politic {word} of many of our friends in this contest, and a cordial hand- {clasp} is something to be uncommonly grateful

for, after one has learned to feel so warmly about Hayes as I have. Sometimes I almost wish that those who think Tilden is equally a reformer might have him for President. But then the rest of us would suffer too!—My only trouble in writing about Hayes was that I dared not chain his

{word} for him without serving to overshadow his case. He is ^most {nearly}^ a thoroughly good man, but he is one of the greatest that has ever been candidate for the Presidency: Lincoln, refined and dignified by a touch of Washington is my notion of Hayes.

Thank you for your kind intention toward my book. I believe it’s {word} are not {word} but it is about time, and the book came out very late.

Very truly yours, W.D. Howells

Mr. Eaton.