

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

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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

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{?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.