

Blackheath Park Kent

Aug. 30.1863

Dear Sir

I ought to have thanked you long ago for the very valuable little treatise, in answer to Spence, of which you were good enough to send me a copy. I was not in England when it arrived, and after my return I was for a long time too busy to read it; and indeed I was the more inclined to reserve it until I had disposed of other things, because from the part

you have taken publicly on the American question, I had no doubt whatever of its being good. Having now read it, I can fully appreciate the great use it must have been of. I can only ascribe to the influence of such <??> as yours, that mischievous as Spence's book has been in other respects, people seldom now venture to maintain that succession was lawful and

constitutional — in which, as you truly say, depends the vital point, which of the contending parties was the aggressor in a civil war. Allow me, in behalf of all friends of freedom, to thank you both for this book

and for your other important
exertions in the cause. I am

Dear Sir

very sincerely yours

J. S. Mill