

Office of Littell's Living Age.

Boston, 2 Jan 1865

J. Hammond Trumbull Esq
Secretary of State Con.

Dear Sir

I am greatly obliged by the very hearty letter of commendation which you sent to us on 30 Dec., and very heartily reciprocate your friendly expressions, adding you to the list of very good men who have cheered me in the same way for many past years.

My work is not of the highest order - it is only as the humble compiler that I have acted. But this action has continued since Jan. 1819 ^{a year after} when I became of age. And "long drifting wears away stones." In these 46 years I have no doubt helped to educate, & feed, very many woids. I thank God & take courage!

I should be glad if all the leaders could appreciate, as you do, the risk & loss of taking a clear stand. Years ago, when I charged the Slavery contest upon John C. Calhoun, I lost all South Carolina at once. And since, as further developments made further action necessary, we endeavoured, "standing in our lot" to do what we could -

to testify, if we could do no more, it has relieved me
while lamenting that neither by sword nor by money
could I take part in the fight - yet such support
as the living God could give, was not fruitless.

Perhaps I have been made as sensible of this, by
the wrath of Copperheads, as by any praise on
the other side. God knows that I would
gladly have given not only my own life - but
that of all my family - to secure the success of
our cause.

I have never doubted. It seemed to me that
the path of Divine Providence shone out brighter &
brighter. This much has been wrought! And the
strength of the Rebellion has only sunk its object
deeper - & the length of the fight at last will
bring all the North together. Our wheat must be
winnowed.

I am overpowered with work at this season, but
send out delay, however hastily, & thank you for
y^r letter, which is now in my pocket to be shown to
wife & daughters.

Wishing you a Happy New Year - I am your
grateful friend
E. Kettell, (68 years old to day)

P.S. Had y^r Legislature been in session, we should have
been glad to send the pamphlet, packed, to you for
distribution at the Capitol. As it is, we will
send to their Post-offices.