

11-15-1877

Letter to Louise Guiney, 1877 November 15

Uncle Bob

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From
"Uncle Bob"

Brighton Nov. 15. 1877.

Dear Lulie:-

Your welcome
letters have come faithfully to
hand and the sense of my own
delinquency has reproved me at
the arrival of each new favor.
I am glad to learn that you
are in such excellent health.
Your mamma - and I aunt
have been to see since I
wrote you, (your mamma last
Saturday) and both were very
well. - I have not become
much stronger but I do seem
to be somewhat better in some
things. I remember the Hallow
Eve sports of my boyhood and
their keen delights - and I must
say I didn't like your pin

auxiliary in the ducking
for apples. — As to some of
the questions which you propounded
in past letters which I have
not answered. — Sam Wells
was fined and imprisoned for
saying in his paper in view
of the coming elections that
MacMahon if the opposition
was successful must "submit
or retire." That is what is
called liberty — in France! Julian
Hawthorne is held out to be the
son of Chatham, the writer.
Greece is an independent power
and has a King of its own. As to
the relative order of the blanching
of the beard and hair, it would
be well to establish something
as a fact. It was once seriously
debated, upon the question being
put by one who wished to have

the reputation of a scientist
"Why the same fish weighed more
when dead than when alive?"
and many learned reasons and doubts
expressed thereon — not having
first questioned and established
the ^{correctness of the} assumption. The assumption
was found for all practical
purposes to be unfounded. There
might seem to be a reason a
priori for inferring the fact in
favor of the priority — in ^{the} blanching
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~beard~~ which would
serve also as an explanation of
that fact and that is that
men use their jaws a great
deal more than they use their
brains. — There was an edition
of "Aftermath" published in
Boston in 1873. — There is a great
deal to be said not only as to why
"Catholic ladies" do not produce

meritorious literary works but
also why Catholics of the other
sex do not take a more prominent
part in the literature of the day -
For one thing the most of those
of either sex who carry their
education further than the common
school pursue them in Catholic
institutions in this country where
so far as my observation has
gone the mental drill and discipline
has been very superficial and
shallow, ^{which} ~~with~~ ^{much} ~~has~~ ^{have} a tendency to choke
off a devotion to study and literary
pursuits after the compulsory
attention to tasks has been escaped
from. Take a school in which
every young lady gets a medal
or a premium or a ribbon
for something and from which
if she brings home a picture
frame holding a ~~square~~ ^{rectangle}

of worse'd representing some
saint or patriarch in impossible
colors, the work of its life seems
to be accomplished and you
may easily see that if any future
greatness comes to its pupils it is
not the work of the school - As
to the "Colleges" (save the mark!)
time may improve them and they
need it. I have not much
opportunity to judge of the system
of the ladies of the excellent order
in which you are pursuing your
education but my impressions
are most favorable both from
report and intercourse with some
of its graduates. I give not much
for exhibition, even when carried
^{up} with fairness as a test of mental
discipline or of requisition but
as a general thing they are not so
carried but are practical

frands -

Is this the "Shylockian"-
ism that you meant?

Please write as usual

Your uncle Rob.