

AL/3026
New Year's Day
The Quest Jan 1 1886

My dear Mrs. Fawcett

I retract all I said about Leslie
Stephen. I am very glad it was wrong.
I never met him. Mr. Thompson who knows him
shared my impression.

But as I have withdrawn tell you, dear Mrs
Fawcett be so good as to withdraw a
sentence - if true - change in your letter.

You say "it is difficult for a Quaker to be just
to an Episcopalian." - If the Quakerism is
weighed in the balance of good wanting.

I am sure that you would think that a
belief in an Infinite Justice renders it difficult
to those who hold it to be just to those who have
not that sublime consideration & respectation.

And, if I may say so without self praise,

I do not deserve that reproach.

I have been most intimately associated
in journalistic work with two agencies
for five years. John Morley and Alf. Melner.
And I fear not to ask either or both whether
my journalistic work made me imparts
to them as agnostics.

No. The influence all the other way.

As Russell said - I would rather be imparts
to a Christian than to an unbeliever,
for the former has used the world to do good
for the purpose of this, whereas the latter has

not. It makes me sad indeed to think
that any expression of an imparts

personal antipathy - which I am sure I
have expressed far more strongly about believers
than about unbelievers - should have led you to
make that judgment.

However, I must take care not to lead
to that misjudgment again.

For in causing it I have unintentionally
but really been untrue to Christ. To me that
harm - a bad beginning of a New Year, the
message of which time is. Don't be a
Christian any longer. Christians will never
save the world. Be a Christ. And a Citizen
Christ. And to on New Year's morning, my very
faith in Christ is held to cause me to be
imparts. That is to be anti Christ.
It is a humbling but I hope it may be a

profitable reflection.

In other respects the New Year has opened
somewhat sadly. All the more marked
because of the good fortune in which the
Old Year set.

One letter brought me this morning the news that
the mother of one of my staff has just died.
This afternoon instead of my wife came a
message saying she had been telegraphed for to
Newcastle where I fear her mother is dying.

It will be sad not to have seen her
New Year's Day. God help her.

Forgive me writing to you so frankly.
You have been so good & kind to me
I venture to presume
Ever yours

W. J. Read