

noticed how carelessly balloting may be done, & probably often is, in the midst of exciting talk. If a single ball, or even two, would exclude, it may have happened in this way.

There must be either mistake, spite, or something wrong about the man which I have no idea about.

He wrote to me a few days ago, enclosing your most kind, appropriate, & soothing letter, which I returned to him with strong advice to leave the matter entirely to your guidance, & encouragement to persevere.

He answers me soberly enough, & I may say I don't wonder - and this letter I should like you to see, & write today for leave to forward it to you - for I have a great dislike of the too-common practice of sending letters about for inspection without permission ~~from~~

I believe in law they are the receiver's property - but still it might not be everything that you, for instance, might write to me, that you might wish me to show elsewhere.

Isn't it a quarrelsome word? - and such animosity about such trifles - and my duty is, to give it no encouragement.

It is an annoying business about the Woolf Cat. - I have had no time to read up the M. N. for about 4 hrs. & so do not know the rights of the question. You can tell me all about it - and when at leisure I sh^d. dearly like to hear - but I rather wish Sadler had shown a different spirit in the E. Mechanic. I cannot think how it is that I never hear from him now, nor has he even sent my wife the hamper of plants he promised her, though she had written to remind him.