

June 30, 1939

Dear Dr. Morgan:

I am so glad to hear from you, glad to know that you are undertaking a biography of Edward Bellamy. I shall look forward to it with the greatest interest. I regret that I have nothing to add to the materials you are gathering. A few years ago I wrote a short sketch of Bellamy. It was intended for a book in Macmillans series, "A History of American Life." ~~It was to~~ cover the period from 1878 to 1898 and was called "The Nationalizing of Business." The editors of the book saw fit to cut out in the interest of space most of what I had written about Bellamy and Henry George. The ~~Forum~~ published an abbreviated article.

The materials which I gathered from various sources were all returned. They came principally from the Bellamy family and the Bellamy Association of New York.

No, I ~~never~~ knew Edward Bellamy personally. His book was generally read and generally discussed in my circle, but I did not at that time know a person who took it seriously enough to become a Nationalist. Of course it stirred up a crop of imitations, most of which I read about as a read a detective story. ~~It does~~

I have always regared "Equality" as a much more serious book than "Looking Backward."

I am sorry that I cannot help you in your undertaking. I cannot think of a better choice than yourself, dear Dr. Morgan, for the task. It has been a real regret to me that in the last few years my work and obligations, as well as my health

has made it impossible for me to do two things:-

First, to take up the story of Antioch where I left it. It was an experiment then of what seemed to me tremendous importance. Now I know it to be a realization. Most important at this time it seems to me would be tracing the way by which the idea became a reality.

Second, I wanted to get into the T V A fight, but could not. Nothing impressed me more deeply about that matter than your effort to show that it was something more than a test of cheap electricity lighting, it was a test of good government. And in my judgment good government lost out. I have deeply sympathized with you through the whole matter.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Arthur E. Morgan
Yellow Springs, Ohio