

Handwritten notes in the left margin, including "May 2, 1964" and other illegible scribbles.

Dear Mr. Farrater, I am now in the succeeding section and it is going smoothly. I cannot write slowly. I cannot write fast. I am now in the succeeding section and it is going smoothly. I cannot write slowly. I cannot write fast. I am now in the succeeding section and it is going smoothly. I cannot write slowly. I cannot write fast.

Thank you for your good letter. I am still quite pleased about my appointment at Victoria. Surely it is worth hoping that Mr. De Lucca chose me because the letters for me suggested that the kind of work I do in philosophy is of interest to him. And surely it is worth hoping that we shall have at least a mild liking for one another personally after we have begun to work together. Next year, incidentally, he and I are to be alone in the Department; for the year following he hopes to have a third person.

One most disturbing thing occurred several weeks ago--and it is the major reason for not writing at all to you during April. Mr. De Lucca's letter to me was a definite offer of appointment to me. I accepted it definitely. Then came a series of letters from him in which I was informed that the offer would be properly made me by the Board of Governors of the University and in which it was made fairly clear that Mr. De Lucca himself must have been called down by the Acting President of the University for making so firm an offer to me and soliciting my firm acceptance of it before the meeting of the Board. These letters made it clear that Mr. De Lucca expected the Board to ratify his choice of me, but they also made it clear that he had been warned that the Board's action was not just a formality. For a period of some two weeks then I simply did not know where I stood. I even was requested to send a picture of myself to the office of the Acting President (to "complete" my dossier). Well, the offer was formally made me and I formally accepted it. But you can imagine that all sorts of questions about Mr. De Lucca assailed my imagination during this time. And you can imagine that it was most disturbing to me to think that I had withdrawn from competition for two other appointments in favor of one that I might not after all be granted. Mr. Nahm felt that if the appointment had not in the end been offered me that I could have sued for a year's salary. But all this speculation was agony. I am trying to assume now that that a Department Chairman dealing with an Acting President might simply naturally make an error of procedure and that the error does not indicate him to be stupid. And, moreover, that the Acting President had no specific reasons for objecting to my appointment. (I really have no reason at all to suppose he might have.)

Another reason for my silence is that it happened that I found myself writing one of the most difficult sections of my thesis during April. I wrote the thing, decided that I had to discard it, revised it after all, discarded it again, revised it again, totally, nearly discarded it again. All this was agony, too. Finally a version of the original section stayed in. Its title may suggest how difficult the material was in it: Discontinuity and Civitas.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "May 1964" and other illegible scribbles.

if you do want it
in Europe;
if you
don't,
please
don't
hesitate
to tell
me to
save it
for your
return

I am now on the succeeding section, and it is going smoothly. It is going smoothly but slowly. I cannot write fast. It is a simple fact. But within a few weeks I shall have brought my middle third to a close, and then I intend to mail it to you. At the moment I am 68⁵ pages into that middle third (and my thesis, all told, is 173 pages long). The best way for me to finish by the end of the summer, and it is very important for me to do that, I

know that--is simply to make the best judgment I can on each day that I write about what I should write. I am dropping things for the last third, not exactly because it is simply convenient to do it, but because the proper course of argument that I must follow in that third is now pretty clear in my mind. I have so far very infrequently referred to any notes that I took in the past; I don't expect to turn to them very often at all even in the summer. And it is in writing this thing off the top of my head, as it were, that I inevitably cut out unnecessary topics. If they are unnecessary, I just don't remember them. And since I seldom leaf through notes nothing suggests them to me.

All of this may make little sense to you. What I really mean to say is that I believe that the important thing is for me to keep in mind the kind of thesis I seem to have committed myself ~~XXXXXX~~ to all the way through. Then the last third will turn out to be a true last third. But I can't cut out topics as such, but there aren't any topics anywhere in my thesis. As for my having "unfinished" things--oh, yes, much will be unfinished. I shall often have ~~XXXXXX~~ written a sentence about a matter that could stand twenty pages. But my paragraphs cannot be unfinished, for a reason that you as a writer with perhaps quite different habits from the ones I've developed in the last months may not readily understand: they cannot be unfinished because if they are they prevent my continuing to write. A finished paragraph tells me what to do next. If I try to leave one too quickly, I trap myself. I do not have a specific plan of development (a very detailed plan of development, I mean) for my writing; and hence to leave a paragraph unfinished is simply to leave it unwritten. (This happened in the difficult parts--I was

speaking of.) If none of this makes any sense to you, just don't worry about it. I am moving along. I hope to be at page 200 by the end of May; and as of today I should say that that also ought to place me at the end of this middle third. Then the thing to do is to make ~~XX~~ each day count its full worth in the summer. To continue what I've been doing for months in other words. I have been working very steadily. No days off, not to speak of weeks.

I've chosen my texts (that has taken some time in April, too). I'm using three things in Logic (a very elementary book by Brennan, a somewhat less elementary book by Ambrose and Lazerowitz, and a book of readings edited by Copl and someone else); for Rationalism I am requiring the Haldane and Ross translation of Descartes, the Scribner's edition of Spinoza plus a paper-backed selection of his political writings plus the little guide by Hampshire, the Scribner's edition of Leibniz and the Open Court edition of the letters exchanged between him and Arnauld. I may also require the students in that course to purchase several of the Platonic dialogues. My choices must be in Mr. De Lucca's hands by May 15th.

Sincerely, J.W.

17-V-64