**Casement to Alice Stopford Green**

**9 April 1911**

**NLI 10464/4**

April 1911

Exchange Station Hotel.

(Lanc & York Rly.)

Liverpool.

Sunday 1.30

My dear and most Efficient Lady,

(You are really a wonder of the world, and fill me with remorse for my own slackness). I've got your long letter of Saturday night and think Sylvester Horne's suggestion is the best yet put forward. Dr. Hodgkin's idea is made in ignorance of what a Consul's functions are. He is primarily a servant - a tightly laced one too - and Morel could never be a servant - he must be a leader. I am an exception to Consular ethics in some things and often do things I properly speaking should not do - as for instance my present tour of this city of greedy merchants and poor men and women. But Morel's utility as Morel wd. be entirely gone as an official, and a Consul. Mr. Strachey is so very right I need say no more. Morel, for a hundred reasons must be kept at his present Job - which is that of a fearless investigator not on official but on human lines. We have plenty of official investigators at work - but only one Morel & he must be allowed complete freedom and be insured against family privation – just as if he were a Bishop or clergyman!

I am quite with Mr. Sylvester Horn and will gladly, for my part take a share in the proposed Society that is to say make an annual payment. I go over to Mr. Holt in about an hour and will give him all your message - and more.

I have written the Bishop of Liverpool a long letter this morning that I hope will move him. I'll see all the people you refer to. After the Snape skirmish y'day I feel quite prepared for any of them. Tomorrow (Monday) I lunch with Sir W. Crossley & will tell him all. He proposes my meeting Bishop Welldon & I'll do it. The Clergy up here - and the mass of the people - are the only ones interested - the rich commercial class are selfish and ignorant too and really one finds a gulf - wide and unjumpable between one and these men from the first moment you begin to talk. Their minds are petty and sordid - that is to say they are so intent on "business" they can never rise to any other conception of life. Even their charity is a part of their business like the Jam man. Instead of personally taking a Joy in giving, and in knowing, and in aiding and in cheering – he devotes a percentage of his gains to that sort of adjunct – a necessary adjunct - to his business - & does not give it, or know the mouth it feeds, but expends it. I cannot talk to these men save as a hopeless outsider - but that I'll do.

Do get "Barbarous Mexico" and read some of it yourself too - it is atrocious - and I know, not from my heart alone but from my head that it is true. I've seen enough, quite enough, in Peru to show me all that Mr. Turner is relating in that dreadful picture of 20th Century Mexico as he saw it. The slave trade and slavery, far from being killed, are expanding - that is the dreadful truth. Between Leopoldism on the Congo, Diaz-ism in Mexico and what I know of the Amazon rubber trade there are more human beings held today in hopeless slavery, accompanied by the most inhuman cruelty, than at the height of the overseas slave trade. This is, I am convinced, a literal truth. Africa no longer exports slaves - her people are enslaved at home to European capitalists - and in South and Central America an enormous extension of the most disgraceful slavery has taken place - in the last 25 years - induced by American & other capitalists & by the upward price of rubber. This abominable thing has got to be fought wherever it lifts its head - and I am firm that we shall do it, and will have Morel as our fighting man right thro'. If we free the Congo slave we smite the Mexican slaver - international humanity is the only check to international financial greed.

Roger Casement