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Paington Devon

May 26. 94

My dear Fitzgerald.

Your sound wave analogies are very interesting, though I am afraid they would work out quite as complicated as a long telephone circuit, and even more so, perhaps. Have you any idea how to compensate in the case of a string vibrating in a viscous medium. That is, compensate for the frictional resistance and produce undistorted transmission of a pulse?

"Bodily infirmities." You gave me a most disagreeable shock. To have one's bodily infirmities introduced to public notice is quite painful. Have I ever said anything to you to warrant the statement? I think not. My bodily infirmities should not be publicly advertised, even if they did prevent, etc. Some may pity me, which I don't want, and dislike; and my enemies, if I have any, will chuckle. And then the mischief may be multiplied by copying. And matters will be made worse by taking any notice of it, or contradicting it. The only thing, I suppose, is to ignore it, and let it be forgotten as soon as possible. But I am sure you did not mean any harm by it, though even in a little town like this it would be very unpleasant if it got circulated. People are horribly rude, and delight in giving offence — common people, of course.

To some who know me the "bodily infirmities" will cause laughter, as I am considered anything but infirm, perhaps strong above the average. I never obtrude my infirmities upon them, & they know nothing or next to nothing of them. My principal infirmity is that I am a chronic dyspeptic, and it occasionally gets awful, and brings on nervous disturbances, which may culminate in epilepsy some day, or may not, according as I live it down, or not. But this sort of thing is strictly for home consumption; most certainly not for public entertainment or otherwise!

Lindard's <sup>scpt</sup>. Very remarkable.

Yours sincerely  
Oliver Heaviside