

Dec. 9. 1897

160 WEST EIGHTY SIXTH STREET.

My dear Col. Stetson:

I met yesterday evening  
Mr. Geo. Darwin who told  
me among other things that  
you were now a general, but  
as I thought he spoke a  
little uncertainly I hope you  
will forgive the error if I  
address you, till further  
sure, by the dear father

letter. The chief object of this  
letter is to say that I am  
pleasing you by want a copy  
of a book I have just brought  
out, in which nearly the  
production of magazine  
articles, published in the  
last seven years. As to  
the purpose, it is not only  
by an American, but intend-  
ed chiefly for Americans; &  
for the most part I have  
acquired, latterly at least, not

so much to advocate any course of action, but  
to give my countrymen food for thought on a  
side to which they are little prepared by pre-  
vious education, or professional interest,  
to attend. You will be prepared of course to  
find me with you the - or an - American  
standpoint; but you will also, I trust,  
recognize my constant desire to draw -  
not force - the attention of our people  
to the prominent history of your own, &  
to the actuality of our common interests.  
To see and realize these facts, and also what  
you is reasonable in the general attitude  
of either people - by the other - is one of  
the great political desiderata of the day.

It appears to me slightly impudent  
to expect the world to welcome a cold  
summary, or sketch, of ancient papers

I believe, however, few of

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my own people have really  
read the papers; and as  
they have, I think, a rough  
strain running through them,  
I am not without hope that  
they may contribute something  
useful to our political  
and moral thought. For  
yourself, I hope you will  
accept the book not as  
particularly useful, but  
as testifying the necessity

regard and esteem of  
the author for yourself

Always Ours  
Yours

A. T. Mahan



Col. Geo. Sterling

Athenaeum Club

London

England

See



1898

CAPTAIN ALFRED T. MAHAN.