

## From S Alexander to Bertrand Russell (27 January 1906)

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24, Brunswick Road,  
Withington,  
Ma  
Manchester.

27:1:06.

Dear Russell,

(I take the liberty of dropping titles).

Waterlow tells me he has returned you your paper on Truth, which I have been keeping all these months. In a way I left him to protect my retreat. But I didn't intend to excuse myself for what is inexcusable. There is only one way in which you can forgive my bad behaviour - by ~~supposing~~ it not to have occurred.

I have read the paper more than once. But I can't criticise it yet, because I haven't made my account with you, and for one reason or another I have not been able to get properly on to *Meinong*. I still think over your treatment of existence - that "existence does not exist" as you say in your paper. and I am still unconvinced that anything which is <sup>true</sup> ~~time~~ may not exist, though I admit myself shaken in my prejudice for the existent. My ~~brain~~ moves very slowly - by the time I am in Oxford again I may have got a little nearer to certainty on these matters. Meantime I am enmeshed in my own paradoxes.

There is one flagrant neglect of duty of which I have been guilty. You may remember I referred to you an argument of Taylor's intended against *subjective* idealism, in *which*

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Taylor contended that "it is logically impossible, a relation should be completely identical with one of its own terms, as this would involve an indefinite regress of such a kind that it would become impossible to say what we mean by the term in question." You *argue* that identity is identical with identity and different from difference and this answer I reverently quoted to T. with the comment that it made my head swim. Here is his answer on page 2 of this letter. There is nothing in the whole of it which you may not read and it may interest you. Will you tell me what you think of Taylor's reply. I see ~~my~~ his second letter is of Sept. date. The original argument on the thin paper is enclosed within the *Square Ceckants* and I send it <sup>you</sup> for ~~your~~ reference.

My kind regards to Mrs. Russell. I see you succeeded in putting in the *Liberalgenius* for your Division. *Moore* comes here in the summer to read us a paper. I am hoping to induce you some time to come.

Yours sincerely,

S. Alexander.