

human societies, innovations are more likely to make things worse than better. Lenin, Pol Pot, Marx, Hegel, Robespierre, the Marquis de Sade, and John Stuart Mill are just a few examples of innovators who have left the world worse off.

A Letter to Sartre

Wednesday 22 January

My sweet little one

Well, I spent a studious day yesterday, then went to Kos's for dinner ...

The other day I caught sight of Gibert, who seems to have given up acting. She's even preparing to take an *agrégation* in philosophy: she wanted to do her probation under me, which would have made me laugh, but I don't think it'll happen. I came home at 10:30 and read in bed – some detective stories and pornographic books that Sorokine passed on to me – but that kind of literature is disappointingly monotonous. Then I came back to work at the Dôme. I have an hour's teaching to do, then I'll have lunch with Bost and work again. Goodbye my love – I so long for some letters and news! I'll send you Hegel's *Phenomenology* in the next parcel, so you'll be able to improve your education.

Goodbye, little best beloved, my dear love, my life.

Your charming Beaver

From Simone de Beauvoir, *Letters to Sartre*, trans. and ed. by Quintin Hoare (New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1992), p. 368.

There's Something About Those Teachers of Teenage Girls ...

The following is taken from *Atheism and Pantheism: A Lecture Delivered Before the Young Men's Association for Mutual Improvement in the City of Albany, on Friday Evening, March 10, 1848*, by Charles Murray Nairne, M.A., Prof. of Mathematics, etc., in the Albany Female Academy (Albany: E.H. Pease & Co., 1848), pp. 12-13:

The Atheist even now promulgates his dismal skepticism, and grimly rejoices in being the denizen of a forsaken and fatherless world; the Epicurean, albeit under another name, sets up even now an imagination of his own, as a deity, with no moral charac-