

considerate offer. -

Must I add one more thing? I fear I must, or not be the affectionate old friend which I hope I am - I don't know how to express it to you - but I certainly did feel a good deal concerned to find that a letter had been perused, which, had I intended you to read, I should of course have put into your hands. I suppose opinions & feelings differ about this - but for myself I have never looked at a friend's letters on papers during his absence, however intimate.

Believe me, dearest Arthur
your truly affectionate old friend
J. W. Webb.

Hardwick Vic. 10 Jan. 1874. -

My dearest Arthur,

(72)

I am sorry to say that a pressure of business obliged me to break my word with you, and as we were determined to come down if possible by the early train yesterday, I had to leave, very unwillingly, "Le Soleil" which you so kindly lent me in the care of Mr. Walden, the landlord of the Bedford Hotel. Not unwillingly as regards him - for I am sure he is perfectly trusty & attentive - but as regards myself - for I had promised you to leave it at either your home or chambers. -

Much loss of time was caused by the Shoolbred shop-folk afterwards, as the journeyman came down several times - & missing me, I