

Hadwick Vicarage, 26 Oct. 1874.

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My dearest Arthur,

As I called in Hunter St. on my arrival in London - and though I did not find your dear Parents at home, saw your Mother's locum-tenens, with whom I had a considerable chat, I think it not unlikely that you may by this time have heard something about me. However, I ought not to leave the information to this circuitous route, but to tell you more directly of the trouble which befel your poor friends before they reached England. Our tour had been throughout very prosperous. We accomplished some interesting things - e.g. an ascent to S. Bernard to see The King in the salon - but on the whole my dear wife was very poorly - the neighbourhood of the lakes seemed to stifle her; & the high grounds to starve her - we decided on cutting short the Quebec part of our scheme & coming off straight to Paris. While there - last Sunday & week, I drank some bad wine which greatly stimulated my kidneys, & not liking to come out of Church afterwards in sermon-time (I never thought a sermon so long) I got into a bad condition, & had to go to a surgeon next morning, for the first time in my life, for mechanical relief. But he failed to give this, & injured me, I believe, by his clumsy operation. Things getting worse, my wife made him call in other advice - Dr. Hall, & the Maison Dieu -

How much I have been thinking of you, dear Arthur - & how strongly I feel that what I have often talked over with you has now been sealed by personal experience - ineffaceably impressed upon my mind. Even as I cannot but think it would have been upon yours, in the same circumstances. But may a merciful God spare you any similar trial - and be pleased to impress you, without the intervention of any such chastisement - with the unspeakable value of His Word, & blessedness of His Gospel. -

I hope you have been passing a pleasant time at Florence, where I presume the heat was mitigated before your arrival. We never crossed the Italian frontier, as we had thought possible - in fact never saw Lep, or saw it more unpleasantly. But our arrangements obliged us to go in "the season" - and I am sure we should never feel induced to repeat the experiment.

Write is about magnificent work here, & such as a few years ago he would have considered impossible. My wife sends her kind love, & would feel much obliged if you could find out for her the price of a good oil copy of one of Fra Angelico's angels not in a frame - merely painted on a gilt panel, of wood or even cardboard. I have seen such. You would hear about them at Philpott & Jackson the photograph & frame sellers in the Borgo d'ogniranto, near the Albergo della Pace - tho' I don't know that it is a particularly cheap place. But it ought to be very well painted. If you could find such a thing for 15 or 16 fr. - & still more, if you could possibly bring it to England, it would be a very great favour - Even, dearest Arthur, your much affect. old friend J. W. W. D.