

any steps can be taken to prevent it. Of course the obvious way would be, not to allow Will to become tenant - I did not ask ~~Tom~~^{Tom} about this, being called away at the time - & indeed not thinking of it at the moment - but I suppose the widow (his mother) favours her daughter, Will's wife, more than Tom, and may be capable of conniving at this pretty little arrangement.

You recollect your remarks some about picking up Red Stars. I have been at it again - & this time I really hope to some little purpose - for on Christmas Day I was fortunate^{as} to light upon a great beauty, though very small, about 10 mag: in Orion. On looking for it again two nights ago, what was my surprise to find it apparently increased. I think there is little doubt of this, but of course it requires watching - but should it ultimately prove so, we shall have a new deep Red Variable. Last night I spent a good deal of time in differentiating its place with 42 Orions - & think I have it near enough for identification. I have however written to Mr. Knott about it - especially as he is as good a magnitude-judge as I am a bad one - & if it turns out well, I will send a little notice of it to the next Socy. House Meeting. - Schjellerup (Oh dear what a name) 's Catalogue of Red Stars contains nothing within what the good old Admiral used to call "blundering distance" of its place - unless I have done my work most egregiously wrong. - I believe I saw another very minute ruby last night, but in some place where identification is hopeless - and to mend - or rather not to mend, matters, I have never to this day

finished mending the Whipcord so kindly mended once, and ultimately left unmended after all, by you. I have only as with desired, & as he says, like Delakue, ought to be done with every specimen, stopped off the extreme margin, which always inevitably suffers a little on the tool (and is usually concealed by the cell in mounting.) Whether due to this, or to the quality of the air I cannot at present tell, but I have had some hours of very splendid definition lately: it was cold work however - the thermometer having I think been once down to 11.5° F. - it would have been hardly possible to get on without an Observatory. - I shall have to beg the favour of your calling for me some day, if you will, at the Illustrated Almanac Office, about 2.30 p.m. It was marvellous last night, though getting away to a great distance.

Your young friend Walwyn was here this evening, with his companion Mr. Dawson - they return to Oxford tomorrow - (having been yesterday on the Black Mountain in the snow!) I shall miss Walwyn sadly at the next Lecture, which is to be on Monday! - The Alps however will play.

I know you will rejoice to hear how much better my dear wife is, since her return from seeing Dr. Evans - and I humbly trust we have not that ground of apprehension about her which we were partly beginning to entertain. She sends her best love with mine, and I remain

My dearest Arthur

Yours truly affectionate old friend

J. W. Webb.

She has painted a charming Landscape in Oil. (P.T.O.)