

great deal to answer for, in helping to guide the course
of your country. I am sure there are "breakers ahead" - but
I fear there are those - & very many of them - reckless
enough to steer right on, till it may be impossible to
change the course!

You will be interested to hear that our good old Swiss
guide Christian Bohren - supposing that we were coming
to his country this year - had written to propose our bring-
ing back his daughter to be received into our house, & make
herself useful, while she learns the English language. We
liked the notion, & wrote to accept it if he knew of any-
body with whom she could travel, this spring, and then
D. V. might be able another season to take her back
with us. But I fear that will prove a serious hitch,
& the scheme may come to nothing.

We are beginning to smell out a little project of com-
ing to Town for a short time about the 2nd week in
May - & do so hope you may not be out of the way at
that time. Wouldn't it be jolly?

Grippe sends her very kind love & I am always,
My dearest Arthur,

Yours most affectionately

J. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage, March 17. 1870.

My dearest Arthur,

(13)

It is indeed a long while since we have had
any communication - but I thought the debt was
mine, though you have kindly taken it upon your-
self. anyhow, I was very glad to see your writing,
again. But why will you run a race against an
adversary who as somebody says is not troubled with
human infirmities? He carries indeed a scythe and
an hour-glass - but they do not impede his nimble
running. -

Your plans are both of them most ingenious - but
practically I fear they would not "pay". For it is
not red light alone, but that of a definite refrangibility
which renders the prominences visible; & I do not see
! that your methods offer any advantage above the em-
ployment of a red screen at the eye-end - if only any
medium, solid or fluid, could be found to transmit
just the quality of light required. This Mr. Staggins
has all-but accomplished - and it would be probably
both easier & cheaper to succeed on this plan, than to
attempt to insulate, from the red light in general, the
exact section required, by such methods as you propose. 78