

Haidouk Parsonage, Oct. 8. / 66.

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My dear young friend,

I have used your vestige in more ways than one - I have, just of all, never returned a book you lent me so kindly till Oct. (if I recollect right) & probably you have been waiting it for this exam: which is a scandalous shame! However here it goes by this post. - Next I never thanked you for the other equally kind loan of Grove - pray tell me when this shall be returned & I will promise to behave better next time - & things I have never written to you either about these or any other matters I know not how long! - Well - pray believe I don't love you the less one bit. You know how I have been lately occupied - in a hard single-headed fight - but what chance have you when

you adversariz armed with a Scythe?
I am very sorry you could not come
Pict. at the inauguration of this little ob-
servatory: which I think promises admir-
ably tho' at present in a very rudimentary
state. Mr. Berthon had intended going
on Sunday, but I hope he will stay till
Wednesday - or I shall be even in some
flight than I expect of his departure.
What a marvellous man he is! I had
no idea of his eminency in so many
things - his painting admirable - He
is the real inventor of the screw pro-
peller for the Navy - & the gunboats
which had peace not been made, had

a fair chance of taking Cronstadt! --
Better even, though less unique, than all
this - he preaches admirable sermons -
full of the Redeemer, without the least
of that cant & jargon which so justly
displeases you. I do wish you could have
come. He talks of asking you - if he
does, pray don't refuse: strain half a
dozen points to do it - his friendship
is of more real value to you than many
supposed Cambridge advantages.

The man I see hear of

I have been so interrupted with dres-
sary work & the arrival of a specta-
tor that I have not a single idea how
that sentence was to have come on! so

I had better conclude, & with my
wife's united love remain

Yours very affectionately

J. W. Webb.

I am very glad you and Father
is better.