

Broughton to Coleridge, 10/12/1852 (Balham Hill)

We have been playing, I fear, rather at cross purposes. Until yours (Hertford St, Monday) arrived I was not aware that you had even been in London; nor you, I presume, until you receive this, that from two days subsequently to my arrival in town, I had been confined to the house and almost to my room. This will explain to you how it happened that both yourself and Mr Hawkins had seen nothing, and heard so little, of me. On Wednesday I went out for the first time; and made my acquaintance with the last-named worthy man; and dined with my old and valued friend Lady Gipps. Yesterday I was again in motion: and saw the Bishop of Oxford by $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 (sic): the Archbishop at 12. The (sic) Bishop of London at 1: and Mr Gladstone at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2: which you will admit to have been a good days work for a convalescent. However I was better and not worse for it: and when people say they are worse for work I believe it is only the plea of idleness to escape it. The purpose of my several conversations with these distinguished persons I will not attempt to compress into a sheet of paper: but shall hope to have an opportunity of relating to, and discussing with, you, viva voce ere long. Of course no conclusion of any practical importance was arrived at: but still I think there was an approach to some. As to my future movements, I set off tomorrow to my mothers and after passing three days quietly with her, propose to work my way back to London by this day week: calling on excellent Mr Watson by the way at Daventry where I hope to spend a day with Archdeacon Harrison and Dr Wordsworth who have been kindly invited to meet me there. From 19th to 26th I have engagements near town, or in it. On 27th I go to Fulham to spend three days: and should have gone thence to Eton if you had been there. As matters are I shall remain at this place until 30th, on which day I am to meet the Bp (sic) of Cape Town at Mr Mowbrays. After that I have no other engagement until 5 Janry when I have promised to go to Cuddesdon to the Bp of Oxford to spend a few days, and to meet Baron Alderson, and a few other worthies. Should you continue over the beginning of the year at Brighton I thought of proposing to spend 31 Decr and 1,2,3 of January with you there; or

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else to come to you at Eton as soon as maybe after your return. You speak of 2 or 3 weeks as the period of your sojourn there; the conclusion of which, counting from Wednesday 8 Decr will be on or about the 29th. This result which I had not calculated before quite throws over my proposal of being with you at Brighton on 31st, and therefore will you allow it to stand for 9th or 10th January at Eton on my return from Cuddesdon?

I perceive that I was wrong also upon another point; namely in saying I had received your Letter conveying an account of the decease of your venerable father-in-law. It could not have been so: inasmuch as your noble and feeling statement reached me only a few days since returned from Sydney, where it had arrived subsequently to my departure. Most truly, most cordially do I sympathize and concur in every word that you have written respecting him. May it be ordered that your words shall be engraven upon a monument worthy of him to be erected by his pupils: whether separately, or combinedly with the many who valued duly his acquirements and his character, I will not presume to advise. In the former course there would be something more congenial with the feeling which one rejoices to witness as springing up between Master and scholar from the cultivation of that sweet classic lore, which after all is what makes us two thirds at least of what we are. On the other hand a general public tribute would in my eyes, and in the eyes of many others, have this recommendation: that it might be shared in by those who though not his pupils, were yet bound to him by many affectate and many holy ties. On my children's behalf as well as on my own I say this: for they recollect and often call to remembrance with grateful hearts, the many acts of condescending kindness which from early infancy they were in the habit of receiving from him. At any rate let me beg that the suggestion of some suitable tribute to the memory of a man to whom the nation lay under obligation, for the distinguished men he reared for it, may not be lost sight of. I rejoice to learn that he was buried at Hartley: and near too

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to a portion of my race. My mind is filled with many recollections, and my eyes with tears.

With your Letter I received of course the P.S. relating to young Coley and the Letter addressed to him. I will forward them by the first opportunity to my son-in-law George Crawley who will do his best in attention to your wishes. You said in one of your Letters, you did not know whom Emily had married. He was introduced to me by Mr Watson, the late good Mr Norris and others of like principles and brought me also a letter from yourself; in which I think you said, but cannot affirm with certainty, that he was in some way a relative or connexion of yours. Was it not so? His father was Rector of Heyford near Weedon and died during last year.

I am not aware that there is anything which at this moment requires further notice. Still there are lying by me more than forty letters to reply to; though I have already written more than forty since my arrival in England. (Love to Mrs Col).

P.S. I had some conversation with Mr Hawkins about the Windsor and Eton Church Union Meeting. He did not know when it was fixed to take place. I will most certainly attend if you wish it, and will let me know the time.