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(1)

10 Oct 1884

My dear Andrew,

So long a time has elapsed since I had the pleasure of writing to you that I feel somewhat at a loss to know how to commence some of the topics to which I intend to refer have lost some of their freshness if not their interest.

In the first place, oh best of friends, I hope I need hardly say that my long silence had arisen not from any diminution of loving interest, but from the restrictions imposed by lack of leisure & the want of opportunity.

My state of health, too,  
continued very low & my altered  
appearance is the subject of  
frequent comment by friends &  
acquaintances. Simmons called  
on me & <sup>he too</sup> noticed the change.  
Since he left I have been again  
very ill, - so ill that I was  
compelled to remain absent from  
the office & my employers almost  
insisted on my taking a month's  
holiday - Indeed had it not been  
for lack of funds I should have  
availed myself of this offer &  
sought the repose I so badly  
need. But, alas, stern poverty  
stepped in & compelled me to

relinquish the plan I had  
formed of taking a run over to  
Tasmania. However of late the  
weather, which for many months  
had been very trying to me in  
my weak state of health, has  
some what improved & I think  
that when finally "Grey matter"  
has gone like a wearisome guest  
I shall regain a little of the  
vitality I once enjoyed. Mean-  
while in spite of an almost  
crushing weight of business &  
"this body that does me grievous  
wrong" I manage to struggle  
on fortified by courage & the  
assurance that in a few months

I shall <sup>name</sup> the delightful pleasure  
of travelling across the  
Straits with dear old Milton  
& mingling in the society of those  
whom time & absence only serve  
to still more endear. Oh my  
dear Andrew, I am ill at  
these numbers & I cannot even  
attempt to shadow forth in  
these attempts at correspondence  
the joy & sustaining satisfaction  
I feel in knowing that as  
time rolls on I am becoming  
more & more worthy of your  
esteem. I cannot give you any  
idea how this thought has  
purified & helped me in my

Struggles than invaluable the lessons I have learned from you & Milton have been to me. I am almost afraid to say more on this theme lest you think I am becoming womanish & hysterical but when we meet I can I feel sure pour out fully & fervently the emotions I feel as I write.

I was delighted beyond measure to learn the successful result of your brother's actions & I hug the hope that I was of assistance to you in the matter. But do not pain me

With any hint of recompence  
beyond your thanks for the  
meagre aid I rendered. It would  
but tarnish my pleasure.

I read the judgments in that  
case with great interest & I  
thought highly of them.

I need not say with what  
mingled emotions I read all  
the reports of your candidature  
& ~~fully~~ <sup>how</sup> fully I entered into the  
feelings of your friends as they  
called round you & the Cause—  
Some defeats are better than  
Victories & I think the result  
of your recent Campaign is no  
exception. It shows me that

you have made great strides  
in public opinion & that through  
you the good end will yet  
be reached. Whilst sympathizing  
to the full with you in the  
struggle I can't help feeling that  
the time is not yet ripe for  
your <sup>re</sup> appearance in public life.  
I mean that public opinion  
is not yet fully awakened  
to the necessity of having such  
men as you in the conduct of  
affairs; that you ~~is~~ are too  
much advanced for the some-  
-what parochial politics of  
Tasmania; that you would stand  
alone, - unappreciated & unsupported



Nevertheless you obeyed,  
as you always will, the  
clarion-call of duty & acted  
right nobly. It was quite  
refreshing to read some of your  
utterances & they made my  
pulses throb & I felt all  
the ardour of a partisan to  
be in the fray & standing  
shoulder to shoulder with  
you our dearly loved leader.

This leads me by a  
natural easy transition  
to the 4<sup>th</sup> July anniversary. I  
thought the joint telegram

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would "fetch you" & after putting  
our heads together Wilton & I  
wired into you accordingly.

I have read a very inter-  
-esting & characteristic letter  
written Wilton recd. from "Edward" shortly  
after the Dinner & I could hardly  
help feeling amused at the  
latter's thinking that I had  
gone back on the dreams &  
high thoughts of my youth.  
Still, the thought immediately  
occurred - and it made me  
feel uncomfortable - that I  
had not done rightly in  
letting him form such an impression  
which doubtless arose from

his hearing so little of me.  
I wish you when giving  
Edward my affectionate &  
fraternal regards <sup>to tell him</sup> that I  
am not a whit altered  
& can never alter from what  
I was when he last lay  
awake at night <sup>10 years ago</sup> discussing  
all manner of themes. I have  
a great respect for Ivey & I  
would not on any account  
forfeit his good opinion.  
Let him know too that I am  
anything but flattered by the  
imaginary likeness he has drawn  
of me - dyspeptic, despairing,

& indifferent nothing could be  
wider from the mark. My  
"pulses therefore beat again" (You  
know the rest). I have laid  
many a sheltre siva those  
days & though often beaten  
to my knees I have never  
been "floored" by time & change  
& now I feel I never can be.

I have been taking a  
great interest in the Bill  
for the Amalgamation of  
the Legal professions now  
before Parliament & on Tuesday  
I was examined before the

Upper(?) House on the subject.  
I was 1½ hours under exam-  
-ination & was told on all  
hands that I acquitted myself  
splendidly - (You know I seek  
to bring this to you as a  
little proof that in this as  
I trust in all other subjects  
which have for their object  
the promotion of the public  
weal & the sweeping away  
of "Customs thoroughly worn out"  
we are in perfect accord.) I  
send you with this 3 news-  
-papers bearing on the subject.  
I think the Bill will be

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lost by a narrow majority.

Wilton & I heard Gerald  
Massy deliver two lectures—  
on Shakespeare & Chaucer & I  
I was charmed with the  
first but there was nothing  
specially noteworthy in the 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
I like Massy's appearance &  
manner. He is one of the  
right sort & I hope you  
will soon have the pleasure  
of seeing him.

Wilton & I see each other  
every week as usual but  
unfortunately for me his  
Ches<sup>ter</sup> duties prevent our

bring together as much as I  
could wish. We are going  
to take a run into the  
Country one Sunday this  
month. He is keeping very  
well & is invariably in high  
spirits. He is the best tonic  
I get.

In spite of my <sup>of his</sup> work I have  
managed to get through a lot  
of miscellaneous reading lately.  
I have I hope by this time  
thoroughly assimilated  
Wordsworth. I can sum up  
my impressions of Wordsworth

most Emphatically by saying  
that the effects of his teaching  
on me has been soothing &  
healing & in fact I feel dis-  
obliging to him that I have  
that Steadfast courage that  
makes my trembles (& they  
are many) dwindle to nothing.  
In a word I feel at the  
truth of what I shall say  
of him, viz that in periods of  
profound distress & spiritual  
gloom Wordsworth is the only  
writer that can give one  
comfort & solace. #  
Beside "Wordsy" I have



Ye read Shelley, Byron (!) Keats,  
Lamb's Works, Boswell's Johnson,  
De Quincey, Tom Hood, Macaulay's  
Essay & Life, Bacon's Essay & all  
Morley's Universal Library Series,  
Tennyson, Milton (Miscellaneous &  
Lyrical forms), Palgrave's Golden  
Treasury of English Poetry &c &c  
& I am now up to my eyes  
in Haeckel's Evolution of Man!  
Nearly all this reading is done  
in bed. I am greatly distressed  
by ~~not~~ insomnia & take  
this opportunity (!) of turning  
my "necessity to glorious gain".

I mention these facts to  
shew you that I am endeavoring  
to keep abreast of the

kind I because I know  
 you wish no laggards in  
 your ranks. And then  
 what glorious talks on  
 literary subjects Wetherst  
 have in our Saturday or Sunday  
 lectures. Of course Merzani is  
 all on my side for I rarely  
 can ever leave him without  
 having my moral intellectual  
 being revived. What a truly  
 noble nature Wetherst has &  
 what a large flowing human  
 heart withal (- "not too good  
 for human natures daily food")

By the way I before I  
forget to mention it, had  
you read Leslie Stephens  
"Hours in a Library." I  
suppose you have for it  
seems to me that somehow  
you manage to read every-  
thing. If not I commend an  
Article in it Entitled "Wordsworth's  
Ethics" to your attention. I  
found it delightful reading -

The house grows late -  
My fire is out - "I must to  
my cold bed to warm me"

I am reluctant to  
close this rambling effusion  
for I have yet much to  
say, but I think I had  
better take Horaces advice,  
*Plura que differat et presens in  
tempus omittat.*

I shall live in the  
hope that the feelings  
which have prompted this  
letter will awake a  
responsive echo in your  
bosom & that I shall <sup>thereby</sup>  
be drawn nearer to you.

Please remember me  
affectionately to Mrs Clark -  
I am afraid though she  
has forgotten <sup>me</sup> for I noticed  
with a pang that she  
never mentions my name  
in her letters to Milton.

For the present, Adieu,  
good night & good bye  
& believe me

Ever affectionately Mine

W. D. G.

A. Supt. Clark Esq  
Sol. Robert

Write soon