

"The Georg", G. Kieda,
 Sunday, 2 March 1879

My dear Andrew

This is but a brief reply
 to your last kind letter but must
 go in its present compass, as you
 are doubtless becoming anxious as
 to some of the matters referred
 to by you.

I wrote Dodds ^{a second time} about a
 fortnight ago declining his terms
 but he has since repeated them
 in a more favourable offer. Upon
 this offer I cannot decide - I
 am drawn this way at one time,
 that at another, and probably it
 will be some little time before you

Next hear of the matter - Now,
dont get impatient; believe me
I am anxious to do right but
there are many difficulties in the
way, some of which I ^{have} only ^{very}
barely hinted to you - My family
relations are very mixed and
embarrassing at the present time
and must be cleared up before I
can move. It is no use wasting
words on the matter: I cant
move at ~~the~~ present, and very
much wish, in sheer weariness,
that you would settle the difficulty
by omitting me altogether from
consideration - What answer to make
to Dodds I know not.

I am sorry to learn you have
been unwell & hope you are now all
right again - It is very acceptable
news to find that your own business

is looking up again & I can readily
understand your anxiety to fix your
undivided attention to it, and to your
Parliamentary duties - It is my most
cherished wish that you & I should
be together, - fellow workers, & I have
an idea that some day we will be.
After all, I can't help aving to some
like warmth in Dods' matter
I am by no means so sanguine
as he in thinking our union
would be all that he imagines.
My temper has been sorely tried
of late years and, - Oh rubbish!
Horror I am wavering somewhat
in the matter that I may write to
him in quite a different style
next week -

I am afraid I have put you
to some trouble respecting the verses,
so hasten to inform you of the reason
of what may at first sight appear
a delay in the matter, - first premising

(though that's tautology) that your letter
did not leave ten days for reply -
Immediately on receiving yours I wrote
to Edward to send me from Richmond
my desk which contains my letters -
I only got it three days ago & then
found it only contains your letters
of 1876, 7 & 8 - the letters you refer to
must have been written early in 1875 -
I then remembered that I had a small box
of books lying at Mr Culloch & Co's &
it is doubtless with those papers &c -
They have not yet sent me the box
but I expect it every day & no doubt
the verses will accompany this letter
which will not I am afraid reach
you until after the discussion - I
hope you will hold me blameless
You see what inconveniences arise
from the vagrant life I lead -

Enclosed I send you a statement
of the legal points you refer to & shall
be glad to hear from you again on
the subject -

I came to this ^{place} about about 25
Jan last, & like it pretty well - you will
get a full account of it & my daily

life companion from a lay letter
I am writing to William - please
remember me affectionately to him &
to Joy I present the kindest regards
of myself & Whiting to Mrs Clark -
I have got over my home sickness
by dint of hard work I have
settled down resolutely -

Dodds said you are sending
me some business. What is it
all about?

By the way, will you please
tell Susman that Mr Edward Morrell
is to be tried next week for
Embassy in the ~~case~~ recent trial
of the notorious David Henry -
If he gets out of that I'll have
a shot at him - please send me
the particulars of Susman's
judgment & be careful to ascertain
from him how it was he (Morrell)
Escaped imprisonment in Tasmania.

I had no time to go into the
matter with June when he
was here but it struck me
as being some ~~misapprehension~~
misapprehension on his part -

I have drawn this out longer
than I intended for it must
be owned to be from beginning
to end a most unsatisfactory
production - I hope there will
be more finality in my next.
Good bye.

Your affectionate friend
W. S. Phillips

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