

c4/c96

21 Moor St. Fitzroy  
Melbne - 24 Feby 1876

Dear Andrew,

I would fain have delayed  
this letter but now I feel I must write.  
In all truth, I am very downcast just  
now. You know all by this time -  
My brother's unhappy death; the  
grief & misery it has brought into many  
homes. On me it presses with  
peculiar sadness. It's is ever the way.  
The best go first; the bad & the  
useless are left to linger on. Ah me!  
I mournfully think of the good we  
had planned to do, the affection that  
united us, the bright hopes that  
urged both of us on to strive against  
an adverse fate. It's a great comfort  
to me to know that I have your sympathy  
in this affliction - I am completely

upset & very wretched. Just as my prospects were brightening, just as his honorable toil was about to be crowned with success & another month or so would have seen him united to a beautiful loving & accomplished girl, this last calamity scatters all our hopes to the winds. Really I feel as if there were nothing left in life. We two were so wound up together that I feel as if the half of life had fled - But words avail me nothing, and thought only makes me more sorrowful - My sister, brother, mother & relatives are plunged in grief & I can only lament in common with them. Try, dear friend, to comfort the former a little. Poor girl! she is very unhappy - But I must stop for I trust to your affection to partly sustain me.

You know perhaps that I have left C +  
E's & gone into anor office. The hours  
are longer & the ~~more~~ work responsible  
arduous, but the situation is a good  
one & the other clerks fine honest -  
- working fellows. The principals are  
quiet Scotchmen - Presbyterians - but  
I like them better than the insincere  
Wesleyans - I think I shall like the  
place & shall rise. The business is very  
large (there are 10 clerks) & principally  
conveyancing - The post I hold is worth  
about £175 a year -

one reason (& this too perhaps you  
have heard) why I have not written  
before, is that I have until very lately  
been very unwell & altogether unfit  
for business. But let me thank you  
from the bottom of my heart ~~from~~ for  
your last long, kind, & instructive ~~letter~~ ~~letter~~.  
Did you know how often I have focused it  
how familiar every word of it is to me

How deep its precepts & thoughts have sunk into my mind you would forgive my not concerning it more fully.

I have also been very busy lately. At the solicitation of Fred Edwards (who wishes to be kindly remembered) I have perused, altered & copied his huge Essay on Venice. It has been a work of great labor & I am almost as anxious for its success as he himself is, - poor fellow.

I have acted on your wish & commenced to read Magzini in the library - I like the style, & still more the matter, & am sure that I shall become a great admirer of his. I have read the first vol. of his Life & Writings & shall resume next week when the storm into which I am now plunged shall have passed away -

Besides this I have finished Hero-Worship - Walt Whitman & have concluded a couple study of Gordons Poems - This & some legal reading has made up my literary budget -

You have apparently forgotten my opinion of Cromwell, which (perhaps on different grounds) is the same as your own - I think, too, I see clearly that

Cordyle, altho' he dares say implying  
that the great man or Hero is very  
often not morally great, really falls  
into the error he condemns; for,  
after all, if we reflect on his reasons  
for considering a man a Hero or  
not, they may be summed up in this:  
that if a man really & in his inner  
soul sees & feels what a wonderful world  
of unspeakable mystery this is, on  
the infinitudes of space & of Time, of  
life & death, of the past, present  
& future, on the vanity & folly of  
human dignities, if he really looks  
deep into his own soul, if he is  
is true to his thoughts, if one "with his  
"great, flashing natural eyesight, with  
"his wild sincere & natural eyesight"  
goes straight to the kernel of matters,  
pierces through difficulties & deceptions,  
this man, & none other is a Hero. This,  
in the aggregate, is doubtless true, but  
in the case of Cromwell, we have only

I think, the great flashing natural eyesight & his alone cannot make a man a hero, & so my opinion of the man remains unchanged. Still I enjoyed the Book immensely & it did me good - I shall read it again, & also I shall waite Whitman in which at present I am rather disappointed, though I admire the man - This will wear off - I mean, my inability to fully appreciate him.

I send you the photograph of Miss Kingston. She has been a source of great comfort to me lately & has been very affectionate. We meet less often now, as her parents seem opposed to my advances, as they had destined her, it appears, for a Wes. Please return the photo wch is the only one I have by me at present. You <sup>shall</sup> have once to call your own Cholly - She always ask kindly after "the friend from Jasmama" & is I fancy a little jealous of you

I hope I have not put you to  
any inconvenience by not answering  
your letter as to "The Perfect Life" -  
I enquired for it at once at Robertson,  
but the soon I enquired of - a boy -  
stated they had only had a very  
few copies & had long since ago  
disposed of them.

Please remember me most  
affectionately to Wilton. I am a  
little hurt <sup>that</sup> he has not written  
but I suppose he thinks I am  
a "fraud" - If so, he is not far  
wrong, but he cannot prevent my  
~~even~~ entertaining a strong liking &  
respect for him. Tell Jovey I  
will write next week, as soon  
as I am more composed. I expected  
a letter from C. Frodsham as I  
wrote to him long since -

You speak of the "necessity" of  
your having to abandon the "didactic  
tone". I hope this is the last remark  
of this kind you will make. To  
me that tone is refreshing & welcome  
& when you do abandon it I shall  
then, first till then, think that  
my hold upon your regard is  
weakened.

Many thanks for the copy verses  
you sent me. They are very good  
& now hold a place in my memory,  
as true & sweet. I have read  
some of his productions before but this  
is the best of those I have seen.

Good bye! My gloomy  
fit is coming on again - I will  
conclude, trusting in your kind-  
heartedness to forgive omissions &  
slips & ~~not~~ don't forget

Your affectionate friend  
W. Gill