

April 27

19. Victoria Square. S. S. P.

Monday April 24/47.

Dear friend. The neighborhood has set forth on a pilgrimage
 to inquire after you today. - I have not very moments - but some
 - too few, as if I must write - having thought very much about
 you during the last week. - Therefore, may accept this as a pledge
 all - You are essentially better, by this time, I hope & trust: in
 my view. You will not be worn for a little news & talk about
 matters of mutual interest.

It was not till Friday - absolutely the last night of
 his engagement - that I was able to get to see Mr. Butler - as
subject. I cannot remember even to have felt more strangely
 regard to my performance - I have had more difficulty ~~to~~
 in ascertaining what my feelings were. It must be some fifteen
 years since I saw him play the part - & the & I, therefore, I
 hope you admire the wondrous insignificance of the discovery!
 He some fifteen years older. Every effect was there which
 I expected: the very looks, tones, attitudes, expression. It was like
 something which had been laid in a box & taken out again,
 without any thing being done in the way of preserving or alter-
 -ation. - And capital as was your passage, - I felt myself cold

And surprised, & sorrowful. When all was over. — What is wrong,
or reconsidering the thing itself, my own impressions — I do not think
the fault was altogether mine. I think she has returned ~~to~~ to the stage,
trusting to recollection, habit, & rote: rather than thinking over
the part again, or questioning herself. What then there was anything
we done or undone with regard to it. — & hence something unusual
not belonging to her present self, or present state of mind & power.
Which, ~~those~~ ^{the personification} ~~was~~ ^{was} more spontaneous. Now, there are very few persons to
whom I would write thus much: therefore, pray destroy this
letter. You will not suspect me, of wishing to please or propitiate
^{you} by faintly praising other persons: because, I am too ~~stupidly~~
stupidly contemptuous a person, (did I not know you) either to
try the trick, or to carry it through — but I don't expect as much
notice or fair construction from any third party. — therefore
I hope the wisest of persons, will ~~excuse~~ ^{excuse} my criticism for
cul. papers. I fancy you will like to know all I thought on the
occasion, & I am as sure of yourself, as of myself, in saying
that we wish it had been different. — Has any one told you
that Maddy ~~would~~ ^{wanted} ~~to~~ ^{to} engage Mr. B. — by going through
two or three nights with Maudslayi & that she declined. She is now
gone to Bath. —

You would understand my experience of being misunderstood,
My reluctance to give an occasion to the misunderstanders.
Could you dream of the state in which my ~~world~~ world is about
Myself & my kind: a sort of "love me, love my dog" thing, which
would be comical, were it not also, mortifying anxious hope of some:
& when it comes to plough up old friendships. I have had many narrow
passages to walk through, since I have known the press. but none so
narrow as this: if I had not news of iron, I should end, in being
absolutely unfaint to talk, cutled up so oddly & connected
with so many disagreeable accusers. - I have not seen much
of Miss Lind off the stage - what I have seen, I do not like. She is
so terribly humble & innocent & modest: "I never was so amused
- in her life as at her success here" - "believes she is to have some
- very large sum for singing in London" but does not know - having
- "never had her contract" etc: etc: - & as somehow, I cannot fancy
that as I utter speaks to I utter, Humbug would ^{prefer to} ~~rather~~ keep Hum-
-bug's company - the deed does not find her sympathetic to her, &
(though, of course, she must be civil & play at being frank, would
rather have a little to do with me as she can: - When we do
get our talk - I have an odd budget at your service, as even
King of Israel had!

2957 Meanwhile, eyes & eyes are open to their widest. - It
appears to me, from what I can make out, - that Mr. M.

is feeling his way in sundry worlds to ascertain what amount
of cooperation he may count upon in case of a management
laid at his feet! Do you see that W. S. Vandenhoff is coming over
from America? Would not ~~that~~ be the Duke? - There will be a
thousand many new ~~and~~ combinations before next winter - or
my strangely mistaken.

Wrentham, keep yourself tranquilly & hopefully in harbour
- to the mind & body: & get as much rest, health, & strength as you
can. When you come again to London, you are right in thinking
that you must come well. A more unpromising & greater than this
could not have been: & it is just as well, that the play was not
tried - though I begin to think I shall never have the agreeable
misery of seeing any thing of mine acted, beyond some sort of
a Hamlet - paucity of price translation. - It is charming to you
because you have no longer highly raised expectations. - Well, I
must bid you good morning - having a good deal to do in the
afternoon to-day - ending in a visit to Baber - namely, a party
at Lady Mowbray's. You yours
A. F. Chorley

kindest regards to Mr. Meriman.