

you are . . . and I hope find you all better.

With love to Mariamne,

Affectionately, y<sup>r</sup>s

Henry Shelley.

Portney.

20 April 1844

11,056

My dear Aunt /

The tidings from Field Place - run  
to say that ere long there will be a change - if nothing  
unpleasant happens to us till then, - it will be for the  
better.

Twenty years ago in memory of what Shelley's intentions  
were - I said that you should be considered one of the  
legacies to the amount of £2,000. I need scarcely men-  
tion that when Shelley talked of giving you this sum  
he contemplated reducing <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ legacies - and that one  
among these is (by mistake of the collector) just  
double what he intended it to be.

Twenty years have of course much changed,



my position — Twenty years ago it was supposed that  
Sir John ~~the~~ would not live five years. Meanwhile  
a large debt has accumulated — for I cannot pay  
back all on which Percy and I have subsisted as well  
as what I borrowed for Percy's going to College. In  
fact I scarcely know now how our affairs will be. ~~Now~~  
over Percy shares now my rights — that promise  
was made without his concurrence — & he must  
concur to render it of avail — nor do I like to ask  
him to do so till our affairs are so settled that  
we know what we shall have — whether Shelley  
wishes may not go to law — in short till we  
see our way before us.

It is both my & Percy's great wish to feel  
that you are no longer so burdened by care and  
necessity — in that he is as desirous as I can be  
but the form and the degree in which we can  
do this must at first be uncertain.

From the time of Sir John's death

I shall give directions to my banker to honour  
you quarterly ~~cheques~~ cheques for £30 a  
quarter — and I shall take steps to secure this  
to you & to Marianne if she should survive  
you.

Percy has read this letter and approves —  
I know your real delicacy about money matters  
and that you will at once be ready to enter to  
my views — & feel assured that if any present  
debt should press if we have any accumulation  
of money, we will take care to free you from  
it.

Anxiety we shall not have for neither Percy  
or I will allow ourselves to be anxious where  
matters of necessity are not concerned — but  
worry & business <sup>enough</sup> we shall have.

I believe we are going into Hampshire  
on Monday — when we return we hope to  
see you & Percy will call to see how