

if anyone other than yourself
had wanted him, the hottest
of red-hot grappling-irons
would not have dragged from
me the consent to part with
him. It is quite a delightful
idea of yours to place him
between the two other pictures
& so complete the "series," & make
me proud for ever!!!

Hoping you have entirely
recovered from your recent
illness - & with the best of
all good wishes in behalf of
you & yours in this New Year -
please kindly accept the affectionate
regards of an old Fossil - and
believe me to be

My dear Miss Thomson
Very sincerely yours
John Sturtevant.

13035

Jan. 13. 1895.

10, Portdown Road,
Maida Hill, W.

My dear Miss Thomson.

I am so sorry to
to have been unable to write
sooner - (Please forgive me!)
in acknowledgment of the
sweetest letter of thanks that
was ever written! - (Please
accept my everlasting gratitude.)
& to tell you how ashamed
I am to think how very little
I had done to deserve it. In
simple truth, I am only too
delighted that my poor little
"Sketch" may have given you
even five minutes pleasure
or amusement - & that being so -

(as Tom Thumb says in the play)
"If I'm not thank'd at all, I'm
thank'd enough!!" Besides, what
less could I have done in return
for your kind remembrance of
me? your "good wishes" - & the
present of the most beautiful
Lifeguardsmen that ever was!!
He is absolutely magnificent!!
only - unluckily - in his journey
here he - somehow - met with
an accident. Whether he tumbled
off the rocking-horse - or how
it happened, I really don't
know, at all events, the poor
fellow arrived with his back
broken - badly; happily, however,
my promiscuous knowledge of
"Practical Surgery" was equal
to the occasion, & with a

judicious application of Postage-
stamp-paper-bandages - and
perfect quiet - he was soon able
to get up again, & I am glad
to say - is now as smart as
ever.

Perhaps it is hardly necessary
to tell you that with this letter -
in obedience to your wish - but
with a pang of pain - I am
returning the "Cob" to you, in
charge of a trusty postman.
He (the Cob, not the postman.)
is perfectly sound, & in excellent
"condition," in fact he has not
had a day's illness for the
last two years. By the bye -
did you really imagine that I
had disposed of him in any way?
No indeed! & to tell you the
truth, & upon my word & honour,