

37 Fitzroy Square W.

Oct. 4 - 74

My dear Shields

Ever since ^{my answer to} your last
letter when you talked of
coming to London to look
out for a house I have been
thinking of you & wondering
what you were up to & intending
to write to you again -

What are you up to? I
hope you are well - I am
to lecture in Manchester
November 23 & 25 - & have

been changing & improving
certain passages in what I
have written - Brooksbank
has made me promise to
stop at his house - he has
also it seems bought a little
picture called "a ^a 'lice" of
Cathy's (Mr. Hiffer) but
beyond this I have heard
nothing further of his
projected commission -

You will be sorry to know
that Nolly has been seriously
ill for now three weeks

& it may turn to rheumatic fever as we
don't know what - Lucy also has been
ill & is scarcely recovered yet - My wife
& I have our health for the present - but
this illness of Molly puts us sadly out -
I have been at work on a "Byron & Mary
Chaworth" & can't get it finished & on a portrait
but can't get the man to sit - so that hangs
fire - altogether things are a great bother

but I shall be glad to hear that you are
well — For some time I hesitated to write
to write thinking you had moved but
Brookbank informed us you were still at
Ardsall Hall — With our united
affectionate regard believe me ever

Yours sincerely

Ford Madox Brown

Of course I shall see you when I come to Manchester