

56 Euston Square
W.C.

Dear Shields,

Your nice kind letter finds me here with William Rossetti having just returned from staying with the Hueffers at Merton - I have been intending to write to you before coming next Monday but have kept putting it off because what can I say.

My wife has been rather alarmingly ill & we had to sit up with her for at least a week at night.

but she is gradually coming
round again - & I shall be
able to leave her with her
two daughters for the 3
days I must be in Manches-
ter - Unfortunately I have
a very bad cold now - a
thing that sticks to me when
it comes, but I shall not be able
to put off these lectures again
so must come at all costs.

I shall arrive at 12.30 noon
Monday & if not putting you
out shall be glad indeed to
meet you at the station,

of course I would much prefer
that it was to your house that
I was bound (drafts or
no drafts) but the possibility
of a solid commission from
Brockbank must not be
overlooked - but I must try
& be with you as much as I
will let me - people who are
your hosts are usually tyrannical
& jealous - I have told him
however that I cannot accept
any public engagements of a
festive character & have
declined the 'Soirée' of the

Athenaeum as well -

Brockbank had sent me your
article yesterday - it is very
thoughtful & friendly of you
to make a row about me in
this way & the article itself
is proof that as a literary cha-
racter you would have ^{been} as remarka-
ble as in your pictorial one - What
I shall tell the people in my lectures
will (after this) perhaps tend a good
deal to clear up misapprehensions
& induce people to look with the eyes
of common sense - You will
I dare say expect me to write
more about my self & ourselves

at this melancholy juncture
(I am just now finishing
an oil picture of "Byron's
Mary Crawford" which has
been of course much delayed
but which I hope to get done
with before leaving London)
but as I said before what
can I say — Since the
funeral on the 12th ^{ult^o} we have
not been to the house, but
were kept at Merton by my
wife's illness & now here by
my cold — We must
begin soon to think of his

Literary remains which I
suppose William Rossetti &
Hueffer will edit between
them - It will be a sad
task having to sort his
books & look out his
manuscripts - but sad
is the complexion of the
event - I made a drawing
of him after death which
I think successful both
for likeness & as a pleasing
piece of expression -
we also have a cast of

his right hand which is most beautiful
& a carte-visite was fortunately taken of
him shortly some months before his
death — I must bring you one —

We must make your wife's acquaintance
soon, you must bring her to stay with us
us either at Fitzroy Square or where ever
we may be — With our best regards to
her believe me ever yours affectionately
F. Madoc Brown

P. S.

I send you a catalogue
as you require — but
Please understand that
I consider it cancelled
long ago — I never show
it except as a quite pri-
vate matter now, for there
is that in the tone of it
which I don't like — in
fact too much of the shop-
raf — for me to like it to
go much about — but do as
you like with it provided you
let people understand my views
of it at present —