

Cuba's Cottage Crumpton,

Monday April 10/82

Dear Shields,

I dont know how you
felt this sad event; to me
it is the greatest blow I have
received since the loss of our
dear Nelly. I cannot at
all get over the idea that I am
never to speak to him again.

And yet when he was alive
it seemed as though nothing
I could hear as to his health
could surprise me; & still

it was not apparently the
visible ailments which proved
fatal. How could one imagine
such a break-down - when
I saw him in bed last, eating
sandwiches & asking for cake
& grapes not two hours after
his dinner! I thought his
ailments imaginary & so they
might have been then so little
could they foreshadow his
kidney disease. A great
man is gone! & the effects

of it or art in this country none can tell, but
one may fear. Unsubstantiated and affectation
on the one hand & "Herkomes ism" on the other
I fear is with go hand with the British school when
a few more of us are gone. You, Jones, Poynter,
& Leighton are tolerably young yet; Hunt, Milnes
Watts, myself & Paton are in the rear & yellow
or wrinkling stage decidedly & what is to follow?
I can't foresee. I hear you are at Brixington

is now Saturday eve. Are you returned home yet?
I shall address this to you then. You have
seen so much of poor dear Gabriel of late; you
must be terribly cut up - To me it seems like
a dream I cannot make out how things
are to go on; in so many directions things
must be changed. I trust you are
well - I keep the "enemy" at bay but still with some
difficulty - at times. I hope you & yours are well.
Believe me yours as ever T. Mack B