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Oct 28 '95

94, PICCADILLY, W.

Sunday

My dear Pippa

I have got a few brief moments to spare, so send you a line. That letter from Sir Henry came on Monday evening; it was fairly polite, if not a bit enthusiastic. He says that I know his views on the subject & that nothing I say in my letter has made him alter them, but that he recognizes Grace has a right to marry if she wants to, even against

his wishes. Then he says he wants further information as to ways & means, & will be home early in January, so that until then he must suspend any decision. That is about all - he says nothing about not wanting us to see each other in the mean time, & in his letters to Grace & Lady N. doesn't refer to the subject beyond sending them a copy of his letter to me. So things remain just as they are.

However I must tell you that since I saw you last there has been a most singular change in Lady Norman's course of action; she now apparently

has come to the conclusion that it is no good objecting to our seeing each other; on my way through town to France I was told I might go & see Grace at their lodgings, & Lady N. went out to tea for the occasion! Then after I got back I was allowed to go to the theatre with her, Claude Norman & another girl; then one afternoon at a wedding I met Grace & summoned up courage to ask if I might walk home with her & was told certainly; I didn't go into the house when we got there, at which Lady Norman expressed surprise & asked if I wasn't coming the next day to tea! Which I did; and now it seems to be recognized that I should go there when I want to. Rather a surprising change, which

I think may be put down in
great part to Lady Newmarsh.

I am going to take Grace to Newcastle
gate to tea this afternoon. So
on the whole things are better than
they might have been.

Mama told me about your rather
peculiar "invitation à la marriage";
I must say I think you were quite
right & am very glad you didn't
take him.

Are you coming back on Saturday?
I dare say I shall come up again
then.

Your affect^o brother

Dick.

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890