

See Hollies

5721

Malvern Link

Oct. 26th/86.

My dear Mary Catherine

I asked Mr. Wood

to add the words "or others" to his degree so that I could send it, as I thought it was scarcely safe for you to send it back here with your endorsement and be lost or made it out in no time I send yours. I have said that next time he can make it out to you as usual, but if you should not be at home he had better send it to me. He has this notice for you this morning. I had your letter this morning too. Mrs. Pears came again on Saturday. I can see she is anxious to come to the house, but they seem so uncertain as to what the boys will do. At first she seemed entirely determined on taking it, and she has written to Mr. Purser asking for the refusal of it. I shall resist of course just the matter, but I should be truly glad if they would come. I think if anyone else came to look at it, that would decide Mrs. Pears. Anyway the house is ours until the end of March and you can make any use of it up to that time. I could not come back, if I were you, before 20

leave here. You might as well leave
Christmas in Rome, and then
when you come to England, you will
feel that you can settle down. I will
clear out everything of ours, and
have all your things, which are now
in the different rooms, collected
and covered up in the best room.
The things, which are in the left
will still be safe here, as they are
locked up, and Mr Darron would
take care of the key. I'm worried if
you stay abroad until the
end of January or so, and then
come to us in Liverpool for two
or three weeks before returning to
Malvern. Whether Mrs Beers takes
the house or not, your things will
be safe until March 25th. I do
wish she would decide to come.
That would seem at present the
most painless way of passing over
the old order into the new.

I wrote to Mrs Hunter yesterday
that a year of trouble she has had.
And that poor girl who married the

and over with so many children, and
is now a widow herself. It is very sad.
Philippe and Jeta Muller came
last night to stay for a week. P. is very
much tired down in every way
by being abroad, and Miss Muller
is really a very cultivated, interesting
girl. She plays Chopin almost as
well as Mr Best, and can be called a
fine, aspiring creature. Mr Truck
is coming for a few days next week,
and then I shall do no more
entertaining in this house. I
have not yet said anything to the
servants. I hope they will both go
with me to Liverpool. I shall keep
away from Mrs Beers for awhile,
as I do not want to seem to caper
about the house. I think it will
soon be taken up if she does not
decide. I laid the whole thing before
her so plainly at first, with all the
advantages, that I do not want to
go on pressing. I believe if she
would take it, and let Mr Best share

As his summer home, it would
be a very good plan. But you can
make any use of it you like until
March, even if Mrs Sears should
decide not to come to it. They could
not come until September 25th.
I am glad you have got to such
comfortable quarters in Florence.
It will be a good change not to have
such constant walking. You will
not quite miss the autumn colouring
on San Miniato and Fiesole. I think
Florence is far more beautiful and
interesting than Venice to spend
any length of time in, and you
have the feeling that it is a place
which Venice is not. John is still
away. There is now only the Archbishop's
consent to be gained to the Liverpool
nomination, and then all will
be settled. I do not mean to take
root in any other place, but
just to make things comfortable
and let them go. But I should
like you to come first to the
new house. Yours affectionately
E. J. Stephens