

Ston Coller, Windsor.

Feb 1 1806

5768

Dear Mrs Stephenson

In the last month
I have been laid up in Paris
and London - hence the delay
in acknowledging your wel-
come letter. I am now better
- nearly well indeed - but my
correspondence has gone
to pieces. I was touched to hear
of the death of your mother
whom I remember as well, and
can see as clearly in my mind

eye, as any one that I ever knew. I deny myself the pleasure of saying more about her as in many respects she fulfilled to the utmost my ideal, and my heart soon set on fire in talking of such.

I suppose you know that I am married - very happily - and am blessed with three dear children. This is the greatest blessing I have known. Whatever ambition I had was fully indicated in my, more or less, puppy talk on the subject. As a matter of fact my sober, middle aged view

of things shows me that ambition ~~was not~~ as the world translates the word I never had. And the pushing and intriguing which I have seen on all sides has only filled me more & more with aversion. I can honestly say that since I saw you I have gone on doing my work without looking for recognition or seeking applause: and the pleasure my work has given has abundantly satisfied me. Imagine me talking so much about myself. I wish you and your sister were likely to be in this neighbourhood that we might have a long

tall of old times and I might
make you known to my treasure

Tell me if such a thing be
feasible. Meanwhile with
kindest regards to you & your
sister believe me

Ever sincerely yours

H. P. B. B. B.

Fawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1.

8290