1883

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Happy those who love the best music. I hope you admit Mendelsohn [sic] in your repertory. He bewitches me almost the most.

Our weather is extraordinary – wet for ever & just now over warm. The thermometer at 56 early in the morn.

And now let me refer unwillingly to a sad subject – namely that of your two unwilling servants (or at all events one of them) Antonio & Carolina. Is he out of prison? And can he get his living? Few culprits interest me more than discharged prisoners, from the difficulty they must find to obtain employment. Pray don’t think that I would wish you to do anything. But he has written to me lately – 20 November – not begging, tho’ I can see that he wd gladly have the little present I used to send him for Christmas – namely a sovereign. He has given me his present address, it looks like “Fondamento da Severo” No. 5016 S. Zaccharia”. I wd send him again a sovereign if you think it would not be misapplied – & yet I do not like to give you the trouble of answerg this. But a few lines on a postcard would do. It gives me pain to speak of the subject to you.

I return home for the New Year’s Day & dine with the Chas Eastlake’s & I shall tell them how kindly you mention them. I rejoice to hear that you may be in Engld soon.

Now with kindest love to Enid, & very anxious to see her medallion of you, I am always yr’s truly

Eliz Eastlake

1. A circular bronze plaque of Layard by Enid Layard is now in the Government Art Collection.

Letter to A. H. Layard

14 January 1883
7 FitzRoy Sqre
My dear Layard

It was very good of you to answer ever so soon as you did & I in return have taken my time. As I may look forward to seeing you & Enid so soon in England, it is hardly worth while my troubling you with a cheque or postal order for £7. I will therefore take the liberty of asking you to advance me £7, & deposit it with Mr. Malcolm, for Carolina. I think you will be safe to find it again in your pocket the first time we meet. This will be a great relief to my mind, & I shall be very grateful to you.¹
Meanwhile I have ordered the forthcoming number of the Edinr R: to be sent to yr address, & hope you will find more than one article that may interest you. Last Sunday good old Dr. Wm Smith came in & told me he thought his forthcoming Q. R: would be found interestg. He is lookg thin but well. He & I swore eternal friendship on dear Mrs. Grote's death, & I always see him with great pleasure – next to real & original friends are those which friends bequeath us. And this brings me to that allusion to “J.M” which I ought not to have made to you. I fear alas! that your proof of his “not hating” me wd not stand a moment before mine. But you know I have never uttered a word to you on this sad subject – & beg yr pardon even for the few words in my last letter.2

I have kind Jessie Lewin with me now, & hope to keep her for the month. I have not been feeling strong enough to indulge in any hospitality tho' I trust I may be well eno' by the time you & Enid come. I have perforce to trust to a Quack, for regular Dr – & I have tried the best in London – won't look at my case, or rather only look at it as hopeless. Don’t be alarmed at my owning that I have gone back to my Quack – he did me much good before & I will take care he shall not go too far again. And really – after only a week of his remedies which are very simple – I am sleeping better, & movg a little easier. Indeed I could hardly move at all. I have seen but little of the world, for I have refused all dinner invitations, & so know no gossip or scandal – except about Coutts Lindsay, which is unfortunately no scandal. Nor have I seen any exhibitions as yet. The other day Jessie Lewin & another friend staying here mounted up dear old Gibson's works in the R: Academy, & were enchanted with them, also with the Diploma pictures wh: are in the same apartment, you must see those if you have not done so already.

I have Villari’s Macchiavelli on my table, have read the introduction, & I hope now that I have finished the long job of arranging my year's accounts! to set to work & finish the book. Mrs Ball was here the other day in great spirits & owng a strong penchant for Morelli. I have not seen him yet. With kindest love to Enid & thanks in advance for the kind office I have suggested at your hands I am always yr's truly

Eliz Eastlake

1. Money given to Layard’s dismissed servants Antonio and Carolina.

2. Layard’s response rejects the idea that Murray ‘hates’ Elizabeth but does nothing to counter her perception of their chilled relationship (NLS Ms.42340).
Letter to A. H. Layard

6 June 1883

I seem to be so near dear Enid & yourself here, that it is doubly unnatural not to try & communicate with you, dear Layard. But the life here is idleness without leisure, & fussiness without work. Quite a new experience to me! It is exactly a month now that I have been living thus, & while there has been much enjoyment in it I cannot report any improvement! I have had my share of ‘Douches’ & ‘Vapeurs’ & all the usual course of treatmt & not without effect of some kind, for I feel considerably lamer & feeble than when I came. This, however, I am assured is the usual result. You must be worse before you are better & this part of the program I have faithfully performed.

But it has been a great interest to me to witness for the first time the burst of Spring in a Southern climate, & most wonderful it has been. This hotel lies in a beautiful garden, with plenty of seats for the dowagers, & a lawn tennis for the young – surrounded with no end of flowewr shrubs & trees, plenty of glorious things for wh: I have no name, & such as I know ten times more beautiful than with us.

The hot springs here are marvelous. The chief one sends forth more than a million gallons of sulphurous water daily, of which my unfortunate person receives a full share, for a douche means the application, through different fire engines of a thousand concentrated showers of rain, till you can neither see nor hear, your attendants on the occasion being a cross between water nymphs & opera dancers. I cannot say that it is unpleasant, but it is very exhausting, & a long siesta is the next act. Then there comes much eating & drinking, & driving & lounging, & so my usual share of letter wrig has been much curtailed. Nor can I say much of the reading. I brought Gil Blas with me to peruse, but have not yet got through him. While a French novel lent me by my very sedate & respectable Dr., disgusted me so much at the end of 30 pages that I decline proceedg further. A book by Emil Montegut – “L’Angleterre et ses Colonies Australes” – has given me more information on this subject than I ever posses sed, tho’ chiefly taken from Trollope’s work.’

Our companions in this hotel are some of them agreeable, & some good looking. The only swells are Lord Monk [sic] & a deaf & dumb daughter, & Lady Ely who makes herself generally amiable. She seems
to be a partisan of your’s, for I heard her express great indignation at yr usage by the present government.  
I cannot say that I have been much interested by the Moscow doings. I cannot say whether I most pity or despise the old man who lets himself be thus deified, & assumes to govern 90 million of his fellow creatures single handed. I cannot conceive of course of history in such as country – with no one fitted to govern.

We remain here probably till the 14th, when, if the weather promises to be steady, we are advised to seek a little bracing at Monnetier – on the Salève about 1½ hour’s drive from Geneva. I shall be very glad for a little coolness – at 23000 ft above the sea, for the heat has been great.

I hope you have enjoyed our Crown Princess’ good company & have had the pleasure of increasing her enjoymt of my beloved Venice. She must be a very good woman as well as an exemplary daughter in law not to be impatient for that wretched old Emperor’s death!

As my sentiments are so unbecoming about Emperors I had better bid you good bye, & with kindest love to Enid beg you to believe me yr’s always truly
Eliz Eastlake


2. Sir Charles Stanley Monck, fourth Viscount of Monck (1819–94) and Canada’s first Governor General. From 1874 to 1892 he was Lord Lieutenant of County Dublin, Ireland. Lady Ely was Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria between 1851 and 1890.

**Letter to Sir John Savile**  
*NASDRO SSSR 226/24/100a*

Upper Norwood  
10 Aug: 1883  
My dear Sir John

Your letter has followed me here where I have been seeking a little bracing air – of which indeed we have rather too much, as it is positively cold.

I am delighted to hear that you have presented your most interesting Velasquez to the Nat: Gal: – I hope Mr. Burton is duly grateful but
that does not necessarily follow as he is rather peculiar in his views of pictures & of their value. At all events I trust, indeed I am sure, that the trustees will do your generous gift justice. Unfortunately Layard & Sir Wm. Gregory – the men of highest taste – are both absent. I shall gladly remind them both by letter how highly Sir Chas estimated that picture. I hope you remember that there is a fair etching of it in Mrs. Jameson’s work “the Life of our Lord in Arts”.¹

I enjoy good health, but am become very lame from a species of rheumatism. I sought some benefit from the waters of Aix les Bains this spring – but found none! I enjoyed my stay however in a beautiful region.

I see Lady Buchanan often in London. She feel’s Sir Andrew’s death very deeply, & looks paler than ever. She & her widowed sister Lady Seafield live chiefly together, but all this I daresay you know.

My pretty niece Mdme Manderstjerna has long queened it in Warsaw, where her husband is General of Division. If it depended on him there atrocities against the Jews wd be soon prevented.²

I visited my relatives in the Baltic Provinces a few years ago. I returned thro’ Petersburg where I greatly enjoyed the collection at the Hermitage – seeing for the first time the Conestabile little Raphael, & renewing acquaintance with the Alba Madonna. What glorious Rembrandts they have! But my time for seeing pictures is over – for I cannot stand about.

Believe me dear Sir John
Yrs always truly
Eliz Eastlake

1. Christ after the Flagellation (NG1148). Presented by Sir John Savile Lumley (Baron Savile), 1883.

2. General Manderstjerna was aide-de-camp to the Russian Emperor.

Letter to A. H. Layard

Eagle House. Eltham
19 Aug: 1883
My dear Layard

You must not judge my deep interest in yr letter from Potzdam by my delay in acknowledg.g it – for I see that I am past the middle of the month, which you mentioned as the period of yr return to Venice. Indeed it falls to few to have the opportunity of writg or receivg such
an interestg account of yr visit to our Crown Pss as you were kind eno’ to write me. There are few people who interest me so much. Certainly no royalty! I feel very grateful to her for rememberg me, & to you for doubtless helping her to do so. I remember hear from Sir Jas Clarke of the total absence of the commonest comforts which had awaited her in Berlin, & of the necessity of sendg her over an English housemaid! I fear she has had many trials in living among my particularly hated Germans, tho’ I believe the Crown Prince is an exception to his race. At all events I could not condemn such a fine lookg man! I am sure yr & Enid’s visit must have been a great pleasure to her.

It is indeed long since I wrote to you from Aix, & much has happened which makes me feel the time all the longer. For my mourning paper\(^1\) is a tribute to the truest friend I ever had – namely to our old & faithful housekeeper – Mrs. Anderson, who lived first with dear Sir Chas & then with us together 38 years. She accompanied me to Aix & was feeling great benefit, when only 10 days after our return she broke a blood vessel & died in a few days. Her great attachment to Sir Chas & me helped to make me feel F. Square a home, even after I stood alone. But she has imbued all the little household with her devotion to me, & I am not allowed to miss her more than can be helped, wh: is, however, very keenly.\(^2\)

I am sorry to own that the waters of Aix have done me no good whatever & I am come to the conviction that my rheumatism is of a kind that nothing can help. I was medically advised on my return to go to some bracing place. I can’t take a long journey again so I hesistated between Hampstead Heath & Upper Norwood. I found a house at the last. It did not suit me, however, tho’ I had my open carriage & took charming drives. So after a fortnight there I have come on here, where my friend Miss Lewin has secured me a nice, large, old fashioned house with glorious lawn & garden, which I am enjoying much. Here I shall be until 4th Sepr & then return for good to F. Sqre. The time is fast coming I feel when I shall not be able to move at all, & then I have made up my mind to live entirely in the two drawing rooms – among the pictures.

And so you discovered the dear old Mantegna at Dresden! It has been there since the autumn of 1876! Just before I went to Italy – old Gruner coaxed me out of it & Boxall had told me that it wd not be eligible for the Nat: Gal, I felt tempted to place it in a grand Gal: like that of Dresden. They gave me £2.000 for it – but for all that it was a severe pang to let it go.\(^3\)

You will have been hearing of Lumley’s generous gift of his Velasquez to the N. Gal. He wrote to me to beg me to confirm to Mr. Burton the
assurance of Sir Chas’ great admiration for it which I can readily do. I am not sure that you know it, or that the picture remained in Madrid when you were there. I hear various reports of the small Mantegna Mr Burton has bought lately for the Gal: Tho’ all accounts agree as to its enormous price. At all events Mr. Burton’s reign has inaugurated a great rise in prices.

I hear from a relation of the late Mdme Mohl that she has bequeathed an unfinished Greuze – a young girl, bust length, with a lamb – to the N.G. I remember it as a pretty thing. This relation had not heard whether it was accepted.4

I don’t wonder at your delight at the Vienna Gallery. Several of the pictures are imprinted on my memory – especially a Titian with the Child giving cherries to some one. The Albert Dürers also – upstairs – I can never forget.

I am afraid that the decline of the cholera will allow for your voyage to Bombay. I say ‘afraid’ because it will place half the world between you & your friends.

I believe Longman has just begun to print my “Five Great Painters”. He makes two small vols of them which I think a pity. Nobody cares to read more than one vol: of anything. I think I shall venture to send a copy to our Crown Pss.

I suspect that the short remainder of my life will be devoted to reading only – I am rather sick of writg – except letters to a few! My habits have become necessarily rather recumbent, in wh: position I am writing now, which must explain a great deterioration in my handwriting!

I hope you are safe & well in delightful Ca’ Capello now – with fresh store of thought. With kindest love to Enid I am ever yr’s truly Eliz Eastlake

1. Writing stationery edged with a black border, the width of which was determined by the relationship between the letter writer and the deceased person they mourned, and also by the time that had elapsed since the bereavement.

2. Elizabeth Anderson was the Eastlakes’ cook and housekeeper. Elizabeth placed a notice of her death in The Times.

3. Andrea Mantegna, Holy Family with Saints Elizabeth and John, Gemäldegalerie Dresden.

4. Greuze’s A Girl with a Lamb (NG1154) was presented to the National Gallery by Madame Mohl in 1884.
Letter to A. H. Layard  

NLS Ms.42171

Eagle House. Eltham
1. Septr 1883

I have both yr kind letters, dear Layard, & thank you much for them. I have written to Mr. Chenery¹ to ask whether he will allow me to contribute the notice of dear old Brown — wh: with the assistance & the cutting you enclose — I think I could do. If he have [sic] provided elsewhere — or however that may be — I have offered to send him the cutting. He is rather a grumpy man, but I hope he will answer me without loss of time. I return home on Tuesday — 4th — & shd set to work immediately.

And so the old friend is gone! like so many others. My only wonder is that I am here myself! He well deserves a tribute to his memory. He was a man of purpose, one of those Englishmen who adopt a foreign home & devote themselves to a particular vein of history. I have known him for more than 30 years & he was particularly kind to me. And I hope I was never impatient with his hobbies, but walking with him in old days about Venice, I sometimes did not know whether we were in the 19th or the 16th century! The money he has left to that detestable Geo: Bentinck is like coals to Newcastle!²

I am thankful you will still turn yr steps to England perhaps in time to receive compensation for the Past. The few words about you in the Times article yesterday were a welcome sight. Mr Gladstone wd do better to encourage such researches than in listening to fine ladies in favor of a monstrous injustice. In great haste but always with love to Enid yr's most truly

Eliz Eastlake

So many thanks for sympathy about housekeeper's death

1. Thomas Chenery (1826–84), editor of The Times.

2. Her dislike of Bentinck stemmed from the aspersions he had cast on the sale of the ‘Director Pictures’ to the National Gallery; see letter, 25 July 1869.
Letter to A. H. Layard

7 F. Sqre
8. Sept 1883

My dear Layard,

I have no doubt that you see the Times, & therefore have found out that I have done my best to follow out yr suggestion in a letter about our old friend Brown. You will have seen also that yr cutting has materially helped me. I only hope you, & other few remaining friends, will approve what I have done. There is rather a grave misprint – an omission of a word – but the meaning is obvious. I knew dear old Brown in his time, when his oddities were softened, & when he was always so kind & devoted to me – tho’ pretending to quarrel with dear Sir Chas – that I had a real regard for him, & altho’ rather tiresome when I was in yr Ca’ Capello there was nothing to lessen my regard.

And thus old friends depart! One by one, or rather two by two, for, like as with good Tindal I have lost no end of well known couples.

I have left Eltham as you see – none the better in the main, or rather considerably worse. Nothing cures rheumatism, when once its implacable progress begins. I am not much disposed to try other Drs, & certainly not other countries. I can nowhere be so comfortable & well cared for as at home, even tho’ I have lost my dear old friend & housekeeper. But other servants – whom she mainly taught – are all goodness to me.

I am correcting my “Five Great Painters” & see no reason to trouble you with proof sheets. I have no longer the energy to make any great alterations – so they must go as they are. I have taken Richter’s Leonardo, & corrected my article by it, as far as I saw fit.

I hope to spend the short remainder of my days in the enjoyment of readig interestg books. I have more than once tried to induce Dr Smith to take an article on the Italian Emancipation. I read many details of the youthful heroism & lives that were expended in its early attempts. When I was in Italy Lord Broughton also wrote on it. But Dr Smith shakes his head. I have not seen him or anybody, but enjoy London to myself.

With kindest love to Enid, who I hope will also approve I am always yr’s truly

Eliz Eastlake

1. ‘The Late Mr. Rawdon Brown’, signed ‘E.E.’, appeared in The Times, 8 September 1883, p. 6, col. C. A few days later in a letter to the editor George Cavendish Bentinck disputed her claim that Brown had demurred from a salary for his post in Venice (13 September 1883, p. 6, col B). Bentinck’s letter ends with a swipe at Elizabeth for calling the Ca’ Pesaro (visible across the
Grand Canal from Brown’s home) by the ‘tourist’s’ term ‘Bevalacqua Palace’, stating that the expression would have provoked Rawdon Brown to utter ‘an expletive calculated to make the speaker’s ears tingle sharply’.

Letter to A. H. Layard  

NLS Ms.42171

7 FitzRoy Sqre  
13 Octr 1883  
Dear Layard

I have been wishing to thank Enid & you for yr kindness to my old friend Miss Clerk in lettg her see the Ca’ Capello & yrselfs. She is back in London & lunched with me yesterday. She had been also partly in yr track in the Fruili hills – at S. Martino & its surroundgs & seeing the woods which seemed all to belong to ‘Signor Malcolm’. Now people are throng.g back before London is ready for them – for the chief streets are still much up, & even Hyde Park has been difficult to pass thro’. Today I have had a visit from Lady Loyd Lindsay who – with Lord Overstone – has not left London at all. He is now really failing at 87 years of age, havg had rather a remarkable life of comparative simplicity for a millionaire, & that by inheritance. He looked on the commonsense side of everything – not so much objecting to giving to charity, as to others receivg it.

But now I must condole with you on the death of Ld Somers.¹ My first acquaintance with his great drawings was thro’ you. I have ever placed him foremost as an amateur, & superior to many professionals. His great eminence as an artist ought to have been mentioned in the Obituary. But those notices are very dull & colourless affairs. I don’t know whether his union with the beautiful Virginia Pattle, whom you were all so much in love with, gave him much happiness. Their daughters certainly did not. I hear however of Lady Tavistock’s ability in art. But Ld Somers himself was to me a very interestg man. He had lived long eno’ however for a man with a weak heart. I think everybody shd die or be killed off at 70 – by that time we have had enough of this life, & people are getting tired of us. A kind friend of mine died the other day – Mr Moore Esmeade – brother of the Miss Carrick Moore’s – & to my surprize I find he was 77.

My nephew Chas Eastlake & his wife are home from a tour chiefly confined to Dresden. He dwells on a fact which has struck me before that the race of modern German connoisseurs throw doubts on every picture of importance. He had met with some at Dresden who left nothing in
peace, & then pretended to make great discoveries of things which are horrors. The truth is they learn their business irrespective of any exercise of taste, wh: is not a quality of German growth. Nor are any of them artists, without which no high place in connoisseurship is attained. I wonder nice Morelli can stomach them. I hear of an exhibition of photographs from Raphael’s drawings – & Mr. Fagan wrote to beg me to come & inspect them, which alas! I cannot do. I suppose he wrote the notice of them in the Times, which curiously ignored all Morelli’s theory.² I conclude he can’t read German. What has become of Madame Richter’s translation I know not. I have not heard a word about it.

I am readg a rather remarkable book. Nasmyth’s life – rather egotistical as all autobiographies must be – nor do I see what good Mr Smiles has done in editing it – except to give it an ill-written preface.³ But it is very interestg & ought to fire the present youthful generation to follow his industrious example. I know the man, & like him much personally.

I have been lookg into Emerson’s Essays, strong, masculine, exaggerated writing – truly American. I see he classes you with a rather heterogeneous list of discoverers – “Denon, Beckford, Belzoni, Wilkinson, Layard, Kane, Lepsius & Livingston”.⁴ I think I cd do better for you!

As far as later mornig hours, weakened strength & letter writing allow me, I am enjoying more readg than I have long had time for. I have an inexhaustible store before me. My powers of locomotion diminish every day, & I seriously think I shall soon retire into the two drawing rooms & never leave them. I might be much worse off. I stick to Dr. Gerrod & will try no more quacks, tho’ I have three kind friends who each more urgently recommend a separate quack of their own. I answer with three objections – “they take up your time, they spoil your things, & they steal your money”. I decidedly prefer my rheumatism to them.

I hear from Mr. Ed Cheney quite an opposite opinion of dear old Brown’s will to what you have given me. viz: that he has left his Italian servant far too much.

The “Five Great Painters” will soon be out. When I have the pleasure of seeing you in London I shall consult you – being the only thorough Courtier I know – how to address our Pss Royal in requestg her to accept a copy. She seems free from a failing wh: is rather disgraceful to Royal ladies here – for Princess Christian & Princess Mary are ‘criblees dedettes’⁵ – but then they have both German husbands without a penny.

Now dear Layard I have gone on unmercifully & will only beg my best love to Enid
Ever yr’s most truly
Eliz Eastlake

2. Exhibition of 152 photographs of Raphael’s drawings at the British Museum. See *The Times*, 19 September 1883, p.7, col. A.

3. *James Nasmyth ... An Autobiography, edited by S. Smiles ... with illustrations* (London: John Murray, 1883). Samuel Smiles (1812–1904) was a prolific writer on self-improvement topics and a biographer.

4. Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essay on wealth, which refers to Layard, appeared in *The Conduct of Life*, first published in 1860 and revised in 1876.

5. Criblées de dettes, French, ‘up to their ears in debt’.

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**Letter to A. H. Layard**

NLS Ms.42171

7 FitzRoy Sqre
10 Decr 1883
My dear Layard

It is more than time to acknowledge your kind long letter of Novr 2nd. But increasg feebleness & lameness are driving me into very lazy habits. I now live entirely – night & day – in the two drawing rooms & only crawl into the front room by noon. But my health is good, & that being the case I need say nothing more of self – except to assure you & Enid that I have the best medical advice & every possible comfort of luxury, but there is no cure for rheumatism.

It interests me much to hear of you trip to Florence, Siena &c. Siena must be much improved to boast of a good hotel. I remember a very rough concern when we were there for a few days, but I delighted in the old city, & especially with varied line of high horizon which surrounds it. Our mutual friends – the Hardwicks – have been or are at Florence. She writes me that many of the pictures look out of condition – “flaking off”. You will have been sure to observe this – if it be true. But who my “conceited & self-satisfied friend H.C.R who collects rubbish from the stone maker’s yard & puffs it in the Times &c &c” may be I have not a conception! I can’t remember any one with those initials – except old Henry Crabbe Robinson, who has been dead ages.

I am amused at yr visit to my queer cousin Mrs Ross who never made herself very pleasant to her relations – nor was particularly fond of her husband, or of her only child – a very nice boy. But I know she was very fond of you! & I had heard that even the Stufa episode had not eclipsed you!
You will probably by this time have found out that I complied with a pressg request from my cousin Inglis Palgrave to give him an introduction to you. You have kindly encouraged me to use this freedom, nevertheless, I always do it with a certain scruple – tho’ in this instance he & his wife are very nice & intelligent people. His elder brother Gifford Palgrave has been sitting with me this morng – much out of health & the very ghost of himself in appearance. He is waiting for an appointment, & meanwhile gaining time to recover. He talked about Egypt, & seemed to consider England pledged at any price to annex & hold it – & that the giving up of the Soudan [sic] wd rather diminish the slave trade than not.

I have been seeing both Lady (Coutts) Lindsay, & her unworthy husband lately – of course here, for I go nowhere. She interested me & I hope she will come again. He came to ask my intervention with Sir Chas Bunbury to lend his fine Sir Joshua for the Grosvenor Gal: Exhibition. It is to consist of Sir Joshua only – & he reckons on getting about 200, the Queen is lendg hers. Sir Coutts Lindsay seemed fresh struck with the glory of Sir Joshua. I have also had some visits from Lady Loyd Lindsay – the late Lord Overstone’s daughter, a very charming, unspoilt woman. I was fond of Ld O. he was exceedingly kind to me. I hear that Sir J. Saville Lumley has been in London, but he did not find time to visit me. His Velasquez is excitg some talk but upon the whole people do not seem to relish it. I admire it exceedgly – Sir Chas did so.

I did send my “Five Great Painters” to our Princess Royal, havg got the precise form of addressg her from Sir Theo: Martin. I hope old Count Münster forwarded my note as well, but Seckendorf, who visits in the Pss’ name, does not allude to that. You know my opinion of Germans, so I conclude it was only stupidity.

The translation of Morelli’s book is very faulty in detail – tho’ the sense is tolerably given. But the translator has taken some stupid expressions out of the Crowe vocabulary.

Christmas is fast approaching. I hope you will have some friends to enjoy it with you. I probably shall have one old lady friend with me. I feel much the not being able to get to my sister at Windsor, who cannot come to me, but this is really my only trial in my confinement to these two rooms. Meanwhile two days have elapsed – it is now Decr 12 – since I began this, when my handwritg I fear shows that I was feeling unusually tired & good for nothing. I have my kind friend Miss Lewin with me & only wish I cd keep her altogether, but her parents can’t spare her. I fear ultimately I shall have to get a hired companion but I defer that evil day as long as I can. Meanwhile I have the kindest of servants – but an old coachman has given me some alarm lest he too
shd give me the slip as our dear old housekeeper did! However he is on
his box again & is useful to my friends.

Some of my friends are in great trouble. Sir Jos: Hooker is in anxiety
for his daughter who has very threatening symptoms of the evil that
carried off her mother. Then Ld Coleridge has returned from America
to find his only daughter set upon a miserable marriage which he cannot
prevent, & wh: is unworthy of her in every way.

Now dear Layard – with kindest love to Enid believe me yr’s every truly
Eliz Eastlake
You’ll please tell me who H.R.C. is!

1. Janet Ross (1842–1927), Elizabeth’s cousin, was the daughter of Lucy Duff
Gordon and granddaughter of Sarah Austin. She lived at Settignano outside
Florence, with her husband Henry James Ross. The ‘Stufa episode’ most
probably refers to the gossip about the Ross’s domestic arrangement with
the Marchese Stufa, with whom they shared a villa at Castagno. See Sarah
Benjamin, A Castle in Tuscany: The Remarkable Life of Janet Ross (London:

2. Sir Robert Harry Inglis Palgrave (1827–1919), Elizabeth’s cousin, banker in
the business of Gurney & Co, Great Yarmouth, and financial editor of The
Economist; William Gifford Palgrave (1826–88), Elizabeth’s cousin, Jesuit
convert, diplomat and writer on Arab culture.

3. Blanche Coutts Lindsay was separated from her husband.

4. Lady Loyd-Lindsay (1837–1920) was the only child of Lord Overstone. She
married Brigadier-General Robert Loyd-Lindsay, later Baron Wantage of
Luckinge, in 1858.

Letter to A. H. Layard  NLS Ms.42171

7 F. Sqre
25 March 1884
Dear Layard

Many thanks for yr kind note. I think I am a trifle easier with new
remedy. “Canapis Indica” [sic] nearly related to ‘Bang’ I believe! And I
wd see you tomorrow (Wednesday) or the next day at any time between
3 & 5 if either be strictly convenient to you.

Ever yr’s truly

Eliz E.

1. Cannabis indica was Indian hemp, introduced to British medicine in the mid-
nineteenth century for the treatment of rheumatism.