

The Letters of Charles Dickens: Supplement IV

References (at the top left of each entry) to the earlier volumes of the British Academy-Pilgrim edition of *The Letters of Charles Dickens* are by page and line, every printed line below the running head being counted. Where appropriate, note and column number are included.

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ANGUS EASSON
MARGARET BROWN

I, 399.6. Replaces catalogue extract (*aa*) VII, 808.

To JOHN FORSTER,¹ [?SPRING 1838]

Text from facsimile in Sotheby's New York on-line catalogue, December 2001. *Date*: after CD's first meeting with Talfourd in Spring 1837, but not on mourning paper which CD used for nearly a year after Mary Hogarth's death (April 1837); handwriting points to Spring 1838; "always" in subscription and "Esquire" in full, support 1838.

48 Doughty Street
Wednesday Morning²

My Dear Forster

I have not sent your note to Mrs. Talfourd,³ for I found on reflection that I could not possibly dine out on Monday – or indeed sooner than *Saturday*,⁴ "having in mind my work."^a Will you say how much pleasure it will afford me to dine in Russell Square on that day, if convenient?

Always Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

John Forster Esquire

¹John Forster (1812-76; *DNB*), CD's closest friend and literary and legal advisor: see Vol. I, p. 239*n*.

²Short double strokes under "Morning".

³Rachel, eldest daughter of John Towill Rutt, married (1822) Thomas Noon Talfourd (1795-1854; *DNB*), barrister and writer: see Vol. I, pp. 290*n*, 315*n*. CD had first met Talfourd in Spring 1837; the arrangements proposed support a date when CD knew the Talfourds well.

⁴Throughout Spring 1838 CD was editing *Bentley's Miscellany*, writing *Oliver Twist*, and planning and writing *Nicholas Nickleby*: he clearly needed ten days to complete his stint before a deadline of the 19th of the month.

I, 566.9.

To GEORGE BEADNELL,¹ [?MARCH 1838-JULY 1839]

MS Free Library of Philadelphia. *Date*: between March 1838 (“Esquire” in full and handwriting supports) and 16 July 1839 when Macready retired from his management of Covent Garden. *Address*: George Beadnell Esquire | 2 Lombard Street | City.

My Dear Sir

I find that the ticket of our box does not mention on which side of the house² it is. There is a private box entrance next the grand entrance in Bow Street, and another out of the Court Yard in Hart Street. You will hear of us at one, but I should recommend you to try the Bow Street door first, as we are usually on that side. The Box will stand on the boxkeeper’s list³ in the name of MR. FORSTER.⁴

George Beadnell Esquire

Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

¹George Beadnell (1773-1862), clerk in Smith, Payne & Smith’s bank, Mansion House; father of CD’s first love, Maria. Beadnell and CD renewed contact not later than July 1837, since Beadnell sent CD a real-life incident, incorporated as the cobbler’s narrative in *Pickwick Papers* (No. XVI, Ch. 44, published August 1837): see Vol. I, p. 289.

²Covent Garden Theatre, which fronts on Bow Street.

³The boxkeeper kept a list of those who had rented a box for the season and of those boxes to which access was allowed by loan or by favour of the management: e.g. CD used Macready’s box, 13 Oct 38 (Vol. I, p. 440*hm*).

⁴Doubly underlined.

I, 615.19.

To LADY HOLLAND,¹ [?12 AUGUST 1838-11 DECEMBER 1839]

Text from facsimile in Sotheby’s on-line catalogue, 2002; MS (fragment) 1 p.; address and date given at foot of page. *Date*: after CD’s first visit to Holland House, 12 Aug 38 (a Sunday); before 12 Dec 39, when he moved to Devonshire Terrace.

48 Doughty Street
Wednesday Morning

As I am (fortunately for myself) both in town and disengaged next Friday, I shall be most happy to avail myself of your and Lord Holland’s kind invitation.

Very Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS²

¹Elizabeth Vassall Fox (1770-1845; *DNB*), wife of the 3rd Baron Holland; the famous and autocratic hostess of Holland House: see Vol. I, p. 412*n* and II, p. 63*n*. Holland House, on Kensington High Street, its grounds now Holland Park, was

extensively damaged in the Second World War: see Lord Ilchester, *Chronicles of Holland House*, 1937, Chs. 16 & 17.

²The top of the MS has been torn off, leaving traces of descenders.

I, 616.23.

To G. H. LEWES,¹ 14 DECEMBER 1839

MS Shaun Springer.

1 Devonshire Terrace
York Gate, Regents Park.
December 14th. 1839.

My Dear Sir

I think it very unlikely that the Shakespeare Club² will be disposed to receive *any* new Members, as they have some reason to repent themselves of their past errors in that respect, and will probably for a time run into the opposite extreme.

Even if they are disposed to elect, I have determined for various cogent reasons not to propose. But, should they trawl beyond certain selections from their old brethren, I shall take care to make your wish known to the Club generally, or to whatever committee or sub committee may regulate its proceedings – which are at present unfathomable.³

Very truly Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

G. H. Lewes Esquire

¹George Henry Lewes (1817-78; *DNB*), writer and critic: see Vol. I, p. 402*n* and Rosemary Ashton, *G. H. Lewes: A Life*, 1991.

²The Shakespeare Club met at the Piazza Coffee House, Covent Garden; CD and Forster were members and Frank Stone was Hon. Secretary: see Marcus Stone's account of the Club in *D*, XLI (1944-5), 40-1. The Club's aim was "to combine intellectual with social enjoyment": see Vol. I, p. 392*n*.

³Founded in 1838, the Club had last met on 7 December 1839, when it was broken up by Forster's high-handed behaviour: see Vol. I, p. 611*n*; hence CD's uncertainty of its future activities.

II, 246.1.

To MISS [?BENNET],¹ 31 MARCH 1841

Text from digitized facsimile on eBay website, 2003.

Devonshire Terrace
Thirty First March 1841.

Mr. Dickens has read "Truths"² with *very great* pleasure and interest. He regrets exceedingly that Miss [?Bennet] has taken

farewell of her readers. He thinks (though she may not) that she will change her mind yet.

¹Not otherwise identified. Possibly linked to the Mention (*To Mrs Bennett*, 11 Mar 41), Vol. II, p. 230.

²Not identified.

III, 500.18.

To WILLIAM JERDAN,¹ 2 JUNE 1843

Text from facsimile in unnamed catalogue, January 2001.

Devonshire Terrace
Second June 1843

My Dear Jerdan

Many thanks for your kind remembrance of me. I tried hard, but I couldn't come; being engaged that day, four times.

Faithfully Yours always

W. Jerdan Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹William Jerdan (1782-1869; *DNB*), editor of the *Literary Gazette* 1817-50; from 1820 a leading figure in literary society: see Vol. I, p. 207*n*; also Jerdan's *Autobiography* (4 vols, 1852-3).

IV,17.15. Replaces catalogue extract (*aa*).

To DR GEORGE SHRENBURGH,¹ 9 JANUARY 1844

Text from facsimile in Christie's, New York catalogue, April 2003.

Devonshire Terrace
Ninth January 1844

Sir

I am exceedingly sorry to say, in reply to your note, that it is quite out of my power to give you the employment you seek. ^aI believe my publishers facilitate the German translations² of my writings, by sending early sheets to certain German Booksellers.³ But this is matter of arrangement between them. The books are translated *in* Germany; and the enterprise is not mine, or my publishers, but originated with German houses of business.^a

Your obedient Servant

Dr. George Shrenburgh.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Unidentified.

²For translations up to 1841, see Vol. II, p. 43*n*.

³Publishers of translations included Weber and Wigand of Leipzig, Franckh and Krabbe of Stuttgart, and Vieweg of Brunswick: see Vol. IV, p. 17*n*.

IV, 61.27. Replaces catalogue mention.

To G. H. RODWELL,¹ 2 MARCH 1844

Text from facsimile in Sotheby's on-line catalogue, November 2001.

Address: G. Hubert Rodwell | 21 Brompton Row.

Devonshire Terrace
Saturday Second March 1844.

Dear Sir

I have been out of town,² or I would have answered your letter before – Mr. D'Almaine³ is at perfect liberty to use the Lithograph for the purpose proposed.⁴ And pray thank that gentleman in my name for the handsome book⁵ he had so kindly sent me by your hands.

Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

G. Hubert Rodwell Esquire

¹George Herbert Rodwell (1800-52; *DNB*), author, musical director and composer: see Vol. IV, p. 40*n*. He was responsible for the songs in Stirling's dramatic version of the *Carol*, which opened 5 February: see *To* Forster, 21 Feb 44.

²CD had been in Liverpool and Birmingham, 25-29 February.

³Of D'Almaine & Co., music publishers of 20 Soho Square.

⁴On 6 February, CD had given Rodwell permission to illustrate his "The Song of Christmas" with a *Carol* design. D'Almaine published the song with Leech's illustration, "Scrooge's Third Visitor", on the cover, with the note: "Copied from the original etching in the Christmas Carol by express permission of the Author, Charles Dickens". Presumably Rodwell had sent CD for approval a proof of the lithograph version of the *Carol*'s etching.

⁵Not identified.

IV, 539.28. Replaces catalogue extract (*aa*) given at XII, 602.20.

To CHARLES NIXON,¹ 22 APRIL 1846

Text from digitized facsimile on undated eBay website.

1 Devonshire Terrace
Twenty Second April 1846.

Sir

I beg to say in reply to your obliging letter, that I cannot accede to the request with which the Members of the Parochial

Committee² have honoured me, as "I think it very probable I may be induced to take my family to Switzerland this Summer,³ and may remain there (for the more quiet execution of a literary project)⁴ some twelve months.⁵

I am Sir | Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

Mr. Charles Nixon.

¹Possibly of 10 Upper Belgrave Place.

²The request not identified.

³CD left with his family for Switzerland, 31 May, staying there until he moved to Paris, 16 November.

⁴CD began writing *Dombey*, "a long book...which I could write better in retirement" (*To Coutts*, 22 Apr 46), in Lausanne in June. He also began there in September his Christmas Book, *The Battle of Life*: "I never had to *begin* two stories together, before: and it is desperate work" (*To Mitton*, 25 Sep 46).

⁵CD, with short visits to London, stayed abroad until his return from Paris at the end of February 1847.

v. 634.3. Replaces mention.

To MISS BLANCHE PAXTON,¹ 30 OCTOBER 1849

MS David J. Holmes Autographs.

October 30th. 1849

To Miss Blanche Paxton²
CHARLES DICKENS
JOHN FORSTER
DOUGLAS JERROLD³
FRANK STONE⁴
AUGUSTUS EGG⁵
JOHN LEECH⁶
his mark⁷
MARK LEMON⁸

¹Second of the six daughters of (Sir) Joseph Paxton (1801-65; *DNB*): see Vol. IV, p. 411*n*.

²The "letter" is properly a sheet of autographs, possibly for Blanche's collection. All the signatories, besides being friends of CD, were associates in his amateur theatricals.

³Douglas William Jerrold (1803-57; *DNB*), writer and wit; author of *Black-Eyed Susan*, 1829: see Vol. I, p. 192*n*.

⁴Frank Stone (1800-59; *DNB*), painter: see Vol. I, p. 487*n*.

⁵Augustus Egg (1816-63; *DNB*), artist: see Vol. V, p. 113*n*.

⁶John Leech (1817-64; *DNB*), comic artist; one of the chief illustrators of CD's Christmas Books, 1843-8: see Vol. I, p. 168*n*.

⁷Between "his" and "mark" Leech inserted his punning "trade mark" sketch of a leech (used for medicinal purposes) in a glass jar.

⁸Mark Lemon (1809-70; *DNB*), playwright and editor of *Punch*, 1841-70: see Vol. III, p. 469*n*.

VI, 285.4.

To W. F. POLLOCK,¹ [8 FEBRUARY 1851]

Envelope only, Bonham's catalogue, 29 June 2004. *Address:* W. F. Pollock Esq., of 59 Montagu Square. PM 8 February 1851.

¹William Frederick Pollock (1815-88; *DNB*), lawyer. Barrister, Inner Temple, 1838; Queen's Remembrancer, 1874-86. Close friend of Forster and Macready; one of Macready's executors and editor of his *Reminiscences and Selections from his Diaries and Letters*, 1875. He had met CD at Broadstairs in August 1850: see further Vol. VI, p. 523*n*.

VI, 302.19.

To HUGH EVANS,¹ 3 MARCH 1851

Text from facsimile on eBay website, 2003.

Devonshire Terrace, London
Third March 1851.

Dear Sir

I regret to say, in reply to your letter, that my engagements preclude the possibility of my having the pleasure of complying with the request of The Young Mens' Early Closing Association of Bristol.²

Hugh Evans Esquire.

Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

¹Not identified.

²The Early Closing Association, founded 1842 and based at 35 Ludgate Hill, London, aimed to reduce "within reasonable limits" the hours of employment in industrial life, which included offices, banks and the wholesale trade, besides manufactures (*Saturday Half-Holidays, and Earlier Payment of Wages*, 1856, p. 2). In freeing evening hours for recreation and self-instruction, the Association stressed educational and moral development. Widely spread through branches and associated bodies, the Association had strong support from Young Men's Christian Associations and church and chapel groups. It also advocated the Saturday Half-Holiday and the earlier payment of wages, often not distributed until late Saturday night.

VI, 604.1. Replaces catalogue summary.

To DAVID ROBERTS,¹ 17 FEBRUARY 1852

Text from facsimile on eBay website.

Tavistock House, Tavistock Square
Tuesday Seventeenth February 1852

My Dear Roberts

The Amateur Company of the Guild of Literature and Art² (after doing wonders at Manchester and Liverpool)³ are going to dine with their Manager here on Monday the 1st of March⁴ at a quarter past six. It will give me great pleasure if you will join the party.⁵

Believe me | Faithfully Yours

David Roberts Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹David Roberts (1796-1864; *DNB*), marine and landscape painter: see Vol. V, p. 522*n*. Probably met CD through Clarkson Stanfield (1793-1867; *DNB*: see Vol. I, p. 553*n*). Roberts painted the act drop for the Guild of Literature and Arts actors' production of Bulwer Lytton's *Not so Bad as we Seem*: see Vol. VI, p. 322*n*.

²For the Prospectus of the Guild of Literature and Art, April 1851, see Vol. VI, p. 852 (Appendix D); its aim was to help artists and writers with annuities as well as grants for members in need and their widows, an insurance scheme and houses for needy or retired writers and artists, built on Bulwer Lytton's estate at Knebworth, Hertfordshire.

³The Amateurs performed Lytton's *Not so Bad as we Seem*, and Mark Lemon's *Mr Nightingale's Diary*, heavily revised by CD, on 11, 13 and 14 Feb 52 at Manchester and Liverpool with great success.

⁴CD had invited the "whole company, and the Artists who painted the Scenes", as well as the Duke of Devonshire, in whose house Lytton's play had been first performed (Vol. VI, pp. 322, 602).

⁵Roberts went: see also Vol. VI, pp. 614-5.

VII, 46.17.

To WILLIAM LOADEN,¹ [10 MARCH 1853]

Text from digitized facsimile on undated eBay website. *Address* (envelope only): William Loaden Esquire | 28 Bedford Place | Russell Square | London. PM Brighton,² 10 Mr 1853.

¹William Loaden (*d.* 1863), solicitor, practising with his brother George at 28 Bedford Place, Russell Square. A friend of Forster and Macready: see further Vol. VI, p. 218*n*.

²CD was staying at 1 Junction Parade, Brighton, in the first half of the month.

VII, 658.5.

To SAMUEL MORLEY,¹ [24 JUNE 1855]

Mention in *To* Sir Joseph Paxton, 26 June 1855 (Supplement III, *D*, 100 (2004), 47). *Date*: the Sunday before the letter to Paxton.

¹Samuel Morley (1809-86; *DNB*), Chairman of the Administrative Reform Association: see Vol. VII, p. 646 and Supplement III, *D* (above).

VIII, 319.10.

To THE REV. JOSEPH HINDLE,¹ [?24 APRIL 1857]

Text (envelope only) from digitized facsimile on undated eBay website. *Address*: The Reverend Joseph Hindle | Higham | by Rochester | Kent. *Date*: postmark illegible; but date written on side reads: C. Dickens | 24 Ap. 1857.

¹The Rev. Joseph Hindle (?1795-1874), Vicar of Higham 1829-74: see Vol. VIII, p. 53*n*. Hindle was the tenant of Gad's Hill when CD bought it, remaining by agreement until Lady Day (25 March) 1857. The letter was possibly connected with Hindle's departure from the house.

VIII, 362.18. Replaces catalogue mention.

To JOHN THOMPSON,¹ 28 JUNE 1857

Text from digitized facsimile on eBay website, Jan 2004.

Athenaeum Club²
Sunday Twenty Eighth June | 1857

I called at the office³ today John, but no one was there. Enclosed is the list of things to be fetched from Mr. Stanfield's⁴ *by 10 tomorrow morning*. Be particular to compare the things with the list,⁵ before bringing them away in order that you may be sure nothing is left behind. | CHARLES DICKENS

To fetch from Mr. Stanfield's by 10 Monday Morning⁶
Coarse canvas frock⁷
Fur jacket
Cartridge belt
Knapsack
Model of Ship⁸

¹John Thompson, CD's trusted servant, in his employment since 1840; but see Vol. XI, pp. 262, 268.

²The Athenaeum Club, Waterloo Place, to which CD was elected in 1838. CD had moved into Gad's Hill in March; Tavistock House, though still in his possession, was "stripped" (*To Collins*, 26 June 57). CD was using clubs as his base when in London.

³Of *HW*, where John, after his marriage, had been established since 1852 to keep the office: see Vol. VI, p. 822.

⁴Clarkson Stanfield. CD was raising funds in memory of Douglas Jerrold, who had died 8 June (see Vol. VIII and Michael Slater, *Douglas Jerrold 1803-1857*, 2002, pp. 270-2). Events included performances of Collins's *The Frozen Deep*, originally performed 6 Jan 57 at Tavistock House: given at the Gallery of Illustration, Regent Street, privately before the Queen (4 July) and publicly, 18 and 25 July, 8 August: for performances in Manchester and their consequences, see Vol. VIII, pp. 432-4 and 447 & *nn*.

⁵Stanfield had designed the sets of *The Frozen Deep* and supervised details of the settings; he may have stored items after the January performance or have had necessary items as properties in his studio.

⁶Written on a separate scrap of paper; two short double strokes separate this heading from the list; above each item there is a short stroke, probably ticking them off.

⁷A coat with long skirts: *cf.* "frock-coat".

⁸Possibly used by Stanfield when he painted the backdrop, showing the ship, for Act III (illustration in the *Illustrated London News*, 17 Jan 57; reproduced in *Charles Dickens: An Exhibition to Commemorate the Centenary of His Death*, 1970, no. 41 and Pieter Van der Merwe & Roger Took, *Clarkson Stanfield, 1793-1867*, 1979, p. 160). The play does not call for a model ship: see Robert Louis Brannan (ed.), *Under the Management of Mr. Charles Dickens: His Production of "The Frozen Deep"*, 1960.

VIII, 364.14.

To CHARLES MACKAY, 1 3 JULY 1857

After Berg Collection. Add Address (envelope, MS Private): Charles Mackay Esquire | *Illustrated London News* Office | Strand. PM 4 July 57.

¹Charles Mackay (1814-98; *DNB*), poet and journalist: see Vol. I, p. 485*n*. Mackay's annotation on the back of the envelope refers to the Jerrold fund, the subject of CD's letter.

IX, 182.1.

To WILLIAM SAMUEL EMDEN, 1 22 DECEMBER 1859

Text from facsimile in unnamed catalogue, January 2001.²

TAVISTOCK HOUSE,
TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON. W.C.
Thursday Twenty Second December, 1859

[My] Dear Sir

If you should happen to have [a] vacant box tonight,³ my daughters would be happy to occupy it.

[W. S.] Emden Esquire

Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

¹William Samuel Emden (?1801-72), theatre manager and playwright; lessee and manager of the Olympic Theatre from 10 Aug 57, of which he had previously been treasurer: see Vol. VIII, p. 394*n*.

²The facsimile is cut off at the left hand margin which removes [My] [a] and the initials [W. S.] of the addressee.

³Four pieces were advertised for the evening: *A Base Imposter*; *The Head of the Family*; *Medea*; *Tom Noddy's Secret*.

IX, 192.9.

To MADAME CELESTE,¹ 4 JANUARY 1860

Text from facsimile in R & R Autograph Auctions catalogue, Dec 2003.

TAVISTOCK HOUSE,
TAVISTOCK SQUARE, LONDON. W.C.
Wednesday Fourth January 1860

My Dear Madame Celeste

I will call on you at the Theatre,² this afternoon at half past Two.

Faithfully Yours always
CHARLES DICKENS

¹Mme Celeste (properly Celeste-Elliott) (?1814-82; *DNB*), actress and theatre manager: see Vol. VI, p. 120*n*.

²The Lyceum, where CD was advising on Mme Celeste's production of Tom Taylor's adaptation of *A Tale of Two Cities*. *The Times* (28 January) noted his "supervision" of the production, which ran from 30 Jan to 24 Mar 1860.

X, 241.20.

To GEORGE RUSSELL,¹ 1 MAY 1863

After Lady Russell. *Add Address* (envelope in unnamed catalogue, 2003):
George Russell Esquire | 18 St. James's Place | S.W. PM 1 May 63.

¹George Russell (1828-98), of Swallowfield Park, Berks; barrister: see Vol. X, p. 241*n*. In the letter CD refers to the Garrick Club.

XI, 104.2.

To JOHN HILLS, 31 OCTOBER 1865

for P. J. Radford read Free Library of Philadelphia.

XI, 105.25.

To JAMES BIRTLES,¹ 6 NOVEMBER 1865

MS David J. Holmes Autographs. *Address:* Mr. James Birtles | Mr. Whiting's.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
Monday Sixth November 1865

Dr. Mr. Birtles

I will send you round the 2 concluding folios of the enclosed paper² at about noon to day. Tomorrow morning I will begin to make up the Xmas No.³ and will enable you to go on breaking it into pages.

Faithfully yrs
CD.

¹James Birtles, printer, on staff of Charles Whiting, printer of *AYR*.

²No doubt for *AYR*, but not identified.

³*Doctor Marigold's Prescriptions*, *AYR* Xmas No., published 7 Dec 65. Birtles had by now received the first three stories (*To Birtles*, 7 Nov). CD "made up" the No. with another five stories, including his own "To Be Taken with a Grain of Salt" and "To be Taken for Life"; he then spent 8 Nov with Birtles, "making up" the No. for printing, "always a tough job" (*To Lehmann*, 7 Nov). Speed was essential: galley proofs had to be read and corrected, the rest of the MS typeset and finally the type broken up into double-column pages. The No. was in print by 17 Nov, when CD sent Charles Kent a confidential copy.

XI, 470.5.

To C. A. BUCHHEIM,¹ 2 NOVEMBER 1867

After N, III, 565 add Address (envelope, MS Nutmeg Stamp sales): C. A. Buchheim Esquire | &c &c &c | 47 Leamington Road Villas | W. PM NO 2 67.

¹Charles Adolphus Buchheim (1828-1900), German and French scholar: see Vol. XI, p. 470n.

XII, 113.22. Replaces summary.

To FREDERIC OUVRY,¹ 18 MAY 1868

Text from facsimile in Heritage Book Shop Inc. undated catalogue.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
Monday Eighteenth May 1868

My Dear Ouvry

On coming to town this morning I find your letter of Saturday,² and send you enclosed a cheque for the balance of the loan to Fechter³ – £400.

Ever Faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

¹Frederic Ouvry (1814-81), of Farrer, Ouvry, 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields; CD's solicitor from 1856, and confidant in many of his business matters: see Vol. VII, p. 273*n*.

²About Ouvry's legal opinion on the action brought against Fechter (see next note) by his acting manager, Humphrey Barnett: see *To Ouvry*, 6 May & *nn*.

³Charles Albert Fechter (1824-79; *DNB*), actor: see Vol. IX, p. 405*n*.

XII, 519.6.

To ARTHUR HELPS,¹ 3 MAY 1870

After Benoiel Collection. *Add Address* (envelope only in unknown catalogue): Arthur Helps Esquire | Privy Council Office | Downing Street | S.W. PM 3 May 70.²

¹Arthur Helps (1813-75; *DNB*), Clerk to the Privy Council since 1860 and miscellaneous writer; knighted 1872: see Vol. VII, p. 236*n*.

²The letter concerns CD's invitation to the Queen's Ball, 17 May: in the event he was not well enough to attend.