

AL/2978

20 App Bst.

Dec 30.

1870

Dearest - Are you
quite sure we cd not
do here for a year
or so? I dont want
in the least to urge you
if you wd really dislike
it, but I think it is
possible that the objection
we both felt at first to
the idea will wear off
as you get used to the

house under its new aspect.

The carriage & pair wd
be a great accession of
dignity & I shoud change
one at least of the servants
(I probably have a third)
in order to shake things
into their new groove.

It would be very foolish
to begin too magnificently
& a big house does ^{involve} ~~cost~~
a great many other

expenses, cut them down
as one may. I shoud so
hate you to be worried or
to be worried myself about
keeping within our income.

I do think too, tho' this
is of course quite subordinate,
that my practice wd suffer
less if we moved in a
year's time, or thereabout.

The two changes, of name
& house, will be very trying
if taken together. The smoking

room is the principal difficulty
but I do not despair of
managing even it. There
are three tolerable rooms on
the top floor some of them
might be given up to you
as a sitting room. The bed
room over the drawing room
is a large room. I think
too it might be easier to
arrange a new house quite
satisfactorily when we were
more at leisure, & more
disposed to spend thought on
matters of taste than we

conv

A42978

are now. We should go
to it with a hoard of
probably a £1000 at least
saved by not beginning with
a heavy outlay. ~~£~~

But please do not let all
this weigh with you if
you still think you would
feel like a lodger, or like
anything but the head.

My impression is that I
could force you into your
proper position within

24 hours of our coming
home. If need be I should
make you order the dinner
as penance till you got
the upper hand of the maid.

The dining room could easily
be made brighter by the
addition of red curtains
& a new table cloth less
sombre & less economical.

If we marry in April
it must be nearly a year
before my name & address

would be in the directories, & I
really think it would be a
disadvantage. It would have
been different had it been
October instead of April.

I should not like to be
seriously discouraged by
loss of practice in the first
year. I think it would
be very depressing, &
it would make me think
I had been the deserter.
I do not wish or mean to be

If you see any force in these
arguments - & mind, I do
not wage them - I will
show you the house on
Sunday.

Ever yours, dear love,

E. V.

P.S.

cont

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I had written all this when
your dear ring came.

Now I rushed down &
found only the letter you
know without description.

But the only is very
sweet, tho' you do mistake
my ambition a little.

I am not thinking of myself
when I fear the effect you
will have on the public side
of my life. All that is

selfish
in me I plead for just that
that you give me.

But I cannot explain
all this on a half sheet.

Carlyle in re. Bennett
is perfectly true, but
suppose it is applied to
In Memoriam, Sunilove,
or Men & Women?

Prose can't express in
any adequate way ~~what~~
is a fit subject for poetry ^{that which}

Bennett's stuff is worthy,
however it is given I long
to read some things to you.