

St. Hollis. 5714

Melvern Park.

Oct. 12/86.

My dear Mary Catherine, since I

wrote to you last night, a matter
of importance has been presented to
our consideration, rather more
or less than a possible removal
to Liverpool. It has come about
in this way. Dr. Darjiling & Cal-
cutta John made the acquaintance
of a Mr Gore, a devoted and scholarly
High Churchman, who was travelling
in India. He is now Rector of
Parson House, Oxford. John has met
him at Salisbury and elsewhere
since he came home. Last Sunday
he called here, having to attend a
private meeting at Lord Bea-
uchamps with Canon Diddon &c
John was out when he called, so I
called with him for a few minutes
until J. came in. He asked me
if I would for permanent work
at home, and said that if he

Gladstone's ministry had left
me, he should very likely have had
the opportunity of hearing of
something for him, as he knows
the Gladstone family. But of
course now that had passed.

About a week later came a letter
from him to say that he had
been staying at Rosardun and
Mrs Gladstone had told him they
were trying to find the right man
for a parish in Liverpool chiefly
of poor people, but not in the town.

He suggested Mr Stepleton, but
of course that was all he could
do. Today has come a letter
from him again enclosing
one to him from Mr Gladstone,
in which the offer of the living
is practically made to him.

It is the parish of St. Thomas,
Toxteth, Liverpool. The vicar's
house is not in the parish,

but a short mile from the
church, close to two of the parties,
and with no town beyond it.
Also Mr Gore says it is in a
good neighbourhood, though
the population of the parish
is a large one. The living is
£375, and a curate's stipend
in addition is offered for three
years. This is about as much
at present. For myself, you
may be sure I have no drawing
to Liverpool, but I would
gladly go anywhere where I
could live out his best life,
and I honestly think he can
do that best amongst the
poor, and amongst men.
But he will not decide any-
thing yet. He shall probably
go over to Liverpool on Tuesday

most and strict John sees
the Patron & I shall interview
the house and neighbourhood
and draw my own conclusions
until then I can form no
idea in my own mind of
what will be best to do.

I should have been well content
if the offer had not been made.
But these things do not play
dance. John is not eager
to accept it, though I can
see he would like to be engaged
in regular and congenial
work. I will write as soon
as we know more.

The map has just come.
Yours affectionately
E. T. Stephenson

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