

Palazzo Zouatti

Rome20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1877

Dear Miss Becker,

We have signed the Petition  
 & other signatures of Mr. Fry &  
 Miss Lurwell; Miss Lloyd is now  
 sending it to Miss Somerville who  
 she will try to forward to Straits  
 & you - I am hardly able to attend  
 to any business having been very  
 ill these six weeks with the  
 flu - and in such a condition  
 of the nervous that I can hardly  
 bear to read or speak or write  
 however I am giving a little better

I saw a good deal of the <sup>new</sup> Mele  
at Naples & have since heard from  
her that she is very happy with her  
little girl - She says she is happy  
with her husband & that he is  
kind to her - but it is a wretched  
business like any one of our  
Englishwomen with a Neapolitan  
He does not even care to read a  
newspaper - he leaves her time  
to do so, cares not to notice  
the miserable wretchedness of

Society of Naples - ~~scarcely~~ allow  
her to receive a male visitor  
alone - & himself keeps house, -  
-but how many of course? How  
women can make such marriages  
is a miracle of folly - She does  
not herself know, & I hope will  
not discover, all that I know of  
the wretchedness of her situation  
She is a dear, bright generous  
hearted woman - & I prize her  
her prospects - of course  
if you have occasion to  
write to her I will be glad

By the time I heard from you that  
He is well & happy -

What a deplorable loss we have  
suffered in Leaf Ann! -

I hope dear Miss Becker &  
were in full health & vigorous for  
the most valuable work.

Ever so truly

Francis Power (The