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Sienna, Aug. 11. '59.

Dear Miss Lander,

I am very sensible of the honor you do me & grateful for the confidence shown me by Mr Lander's Relatives in England. I can understand only too well all that you particularize of an unhappy, misdirected career. This business at present seems confined to doing one's best to avert or soften circumstances which are the natural effects of what is long ago irremediable.

I fear the Lander can never be trusted to live a quarter of an hour without supervision - which, to answer any purpose of good to him, ought to be disguised in at least the appearance of affection & civility. I despair of his finding there at home - not from his own statements which I was disposed to hope exaggerated - but from my own observation. At any rate, he will not return to his family unless they use violence to oblige him, and he has now been more than a month dependent on the



sympathy of comparative strangers: I ought to apprise you that I had not seen Mr London more than half a dozen times in the course of four times that number of years like he came to me in his extremity. Of course, in common with everybody I have always appreciated his genius and generosity, with whatever alloy they may have been mixed.

The only course to be taken is the following, I believe. Whatever means of life are extended to Mr London by his Relatives, should be held in trust for him by a friend: nothing must be left in his own hands: nor should he be even acquainted with the exact amount of what is available, or it will be impossible to repress the sudden fantastic projects of valiant, unseasonable fits of beneficence, & the like, to which he is subject. He requires constant guardianship in the disguise of prompt kind service. I have established him in a lodging hardly a

stone's cast from the Villa wherein I & my family reside till the end of September; I see him several times a day, and believe that his misceptions and variabilities may be disposed of by the treatment I should be happy to continue personally. But I have other claims on me which are imperative; nor can I engage to spend the winter in Florence: this however I propose to do; subject to the approbation of Mr London's Relatives - I will receive what they desire to be appropriated to his comforts. I will endeavour to lodge him close to my house in Florence as economically as possible, and to induce a valued servant of ours - of whose probity, gentleness and other good qualities my wife & myself have had fourteen years' experience - to devote herself exclusively to <sup>his</sup> care. If he is himself pressing me to carry this plan into effect. Should I leave Florence for a few months, I could trust her absolutely with him: her husband is still in my service and has long been proved



trust worthy. I will associate myself with Mr L's  
old friend Kirkup in all I do, and a detailed  
account of expenses, verified by him, shall be  
transmitted to England once a quarter. Should  
there be a surplus on the quarter's receipts, I  
will deposit it with my Banker, Philipson, who  
allows 3 per cent interest in such a case, - so con-  
=stituting a fund against sickness or other emer-  
=gency. I cannot deny that I feel the responsabi-  
=lity of engaging to do this - but poor Mr Lander  
has been, in a manner, laid at my door, and I  
will not refuse to do my best in such a case. I feel  
moreover that I may count at least on your kindly  
doing justice - and perhaps more - to my endeavours -  
even should circumstances beyond my control ren-  
=der them ineffectual. Let us hope, however.

Mr Lander transmits the enclosed note - so  
characteristic of all that you observe on in his  
past proceedings! I succeeded in making him  
understand your intention, after some trouble.

Pray believe me, dear Miss Lander,  
Yours very faithfully,  
Robert Browning.



Siena, Aug. 31. 59.

Dear Miss Lander,

Indeed I cannot say how grateful you make me: pray express to your Uncles my truest thanks for their confidence in a mere stranger like myself. I dare say it will be of little use attempting to explain to you all that the services you so overgenerously make are a very simple matter and are amply repaid by half of the acknowledgements you please to bestow on them: you probably prefer seeing them in that light. The truth is, I would have done my best to make Mrs Lander comfortable for his own sake: and as it now turns out, - suffers me to say I would do as much on the grounds generously furnish. On the proposal contained in your note, I have only a word or two to observe. Mr Foster was the first to mention that £200 would, in all likelihood, be the sum contributed, from whatever quarter, for Mrs Lander's maintenance: so far as I can at present judge, it will amply suffice. At present, with the absence of any temptation to expense, it would more than



suffice: but the circumstances will be different in  
 Florence, and it ~~may~~ be safer to begin our house-  
 keeping with a certain latitude of allowance:  
 of the additional sum which you so generously  
 offer, there will certainly be no need. You under-  
 stand, that my business is not to receive for and  
 deliver to Mr. Landor a particular sum, but to  
 make him comfortable and secure against con-  
 trivances, - using, therefore, your liberality so  
 far - and no farther. What is over at the quarters  
 end, I will lay by against the future. At the  
 same time, do not fear that I will exercise too  
 pinching an economy - I should not carry out  
 your own kind intentions so: but, as I say,  
 I fully expect to be able to do this to everybody's  
 satisfaction and yet keep well within £200: it  
 is, however, an experiment, and you shall be duly  
 informed how it succeeds, so that we may regulate  
 our proceedings accordingly. You must allow me  
 to trouble you with a simple statement of expendi-

- ture at the quarters end: it shall not be a pedantic  
 affair - but just a transcript of the memorandum I  
 must in any case keep for my own guidance: and  
 I cheerfully permit you to consider me as obliged  
 by your acquiescence in my request. And now I will  
 give you the news of your uncle. He is quite well,  
 quiet & apparently satisfied with everything.  
 Things, indeed, almost go on too well - so kind and thank-  
 ful for the least attention does he appear: to easily  
 to be managed, too. I have only acquainted <sup>my</sup> with the  
 fact of my being authorized to incur all necessary  
 expense on his account: the extent to which I could  
 go, is better left uncommunicated. His projects and  
 wishes are most moderate: he is looking forward  
 with eagerness to the superintendence of Mrs. Wilson  
 (Miss Romagnoli) the servant I spoke of: she is stay-  
 ing with me for a few days for the purpose of try-  
 ing how far our plan was likely to suit, and, to  
 my great relief, her appearance has produced the  
 best impression: he decides to find himself in  
 her hands immediately: I expected this would be  
 the case, but the success is complete. I shall ~~now~~



look out for a lodging in Florence, whither we all go in a month. I have had no further communication with Mrs Landon: all that you suggest in excuse of her conduct, and that of her children, I receive in every confidence. I do not think Mr Landon feels malice - namely, nor permanently hostile to them: they are at no pains, unfortunately, to bring out any kinder feeling on his part, but keep up an unnecessary irritation by refusing to send his books, plate &c. He seems to want nothing else: and they do not even answer his applications. Mrs Landon justifies this on the ground of the impertinence of a letter which dispenses with the ordinary "Dear Arnold." - so writes Mr Kirkup. This is all very melancholy.

I wish add, in reply to your kind inquiries, that my wife, who has been seriously ill, seems slowly but surely regaining strength. She thanks you very sincerely for your sympathy. I must buckle off - for Mr Landon is here to dine with her for the first time - though he is protesting against it vehemently in her present state. - Please believe me with renewed regard to your family,  
yours very faithfully,  
Robert Browning.



Sienna, Sept. 30. '59.

Dear Miss Landon,

I fear you have wondered at my delay in answering your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> current: it arose, indeed, from my hope of being able to send you the will duly filled up, signed, & attested - instead of an assurance that I will do so the moment we arrive in Florence. We intended to proceed thither to-morrow - but the continued heat of the weather (mitigated as it is from its excess of some weeks ago) induces us to stay a few days longer: we only decided on this to-day. I rather imagine that it will be better to obtain English witnesses - tho' I am not quite sure on this point - I also wish to ascertain (in conformity with your desire) whether any particular formality is requisite to ensure the safe execution of such a will in Tuscany: I can only nominate two American friends as witnesses - & myself being, I suppose, incompetent to do duty both as witness & Executor. It seemed



therefore the wisest plan to wait till I could get full information and assistance. But I feel so strongly the necessity of getting the document properly attested, and safely placed in your hands, that I will lose no minute unnecessarily; depend upon it. I have not mentioned the matter to your uncle - nor shall, until the day I may be able to terminate the whole business: such confidence do I place in his discretion and gentleness when these are appealed to in a kind spirit. It is better, however, to keep such a matter from dwelling on his mind. For the excellence - I can only say that if you will content yourself with my very moderate ability, it is put cheerfully at your disposal. Your sympathy with - & kind construction of - all I do, make the acceptance of such a charge easier than it would otherwise be. You will therefore hear from me again in about a week's time. My address is - Casa <sup>francesca</sup>

Via Maggio, Florence. Letters to your uncle will be safer addressed to my care than to the Office.

I have said no word about your reiterated goodness expressed in terms which I am as grateful for as if I deserved them.

Your uncle is quite well, quite happy and undisturbed, to all appearance. He takes sufficient exercise and is much stronger than when he arrived here. He is most gentle and affectionate - his spirits also are excellent. We have succeeded in finding him a proper apartment in Florence - but I reserve particulars for my next letter - it is late - & I shall only add that I thank you for your kind congratulations on my wife's recovery - which is confirmed - and that I am ever

Dear Miss Lambton,  
yours faithfully,  
Robert Browning.



Florence, Casa Guidi, Via Maggio.  
Oct. 12. '59.

My dear Miss Landor,

We arrived here two days ago:  
I procured witnesses yesterday, and have just  
caused the will to be duly executed in dupli-  
cate: I send you the original, and retain a  
"holograph" copy, or document altogether in the  
handwriting of the testator, which the law here  
requires should be specially attested and depo-  
sited, as I will eventually inform you. I have  
at present to beg that you will examine, and, if  
necessary, correct and return me the original  
or another copy, which I will cause to be si-  
milarly attested in duplicate, and so end  
the business to your satisfaction. I hope I have  
done right in the delicate ~~business~~ <sup>matter</sup> of suggesting  
to your Uncle the proper legatees: I took  
what must surely be the simplest and  
best way - indeed the only way; for on my  
beginning by asking whether he would  
(choose



any nearer relative, he refused at once. If there should need to be any further distribution of whatever is the property so bequeathed, who will understand like yourselves? I can only hope therefore that you will allow this easy and obvious arrangement to remain.

I only mentioned the matter to your uncle yesterday: he declared he had never made any will in favor of the Yescobes - That he remembered borrowing a parcel of what he supposed to be papers of verses &c. He thought it not unlikely that a forgery might have been practised - and was anxious to remedy anything of the kind by taking the step desired. I found him, as usual, most kind, rational and well-disposed. The witnesses, you will observe, are Mr Kirkup, his old friend, and Mr Edward Jones; the first Englishman I could find: and I have inserted my own name as executor according to your desire.

I have just received notice of the arrival of the second quarter's payment: I thus find myself with a considerable sum in hand. It is right just to say, that the balance revertible to you, after your Uncle's expenses are deducted, will be seen in a moment, by my own statement of accounts between us, should my death precede his, though the probabilities are the other way.

Your kindness induces me to add that my wife's health continues to improve - I much fear, however, that we shall be forced to go to Rome for the winter. You may rely upon every care being taken of your Uncle in that case, and that my superintendence of his concerns will be in the main as effectual as now: but I shall greatly regret being deprived of the



pleasure of doing, myself, whatever a Deputy must perform, though just as efficiently I shall go under no circumstances before the final arrangements <sup>on his account</sup> have been made, and I have assured myself of their working as I wish - and in case of need I will return in a day to Florence by sea.

Mr Landor is in perfect health and spirits, he walked with me <sup>yesterday</sup> for an hour and a half at least. He has spent the three last evenings with us. He is quite comfortable in the lodgings I have taken for him close by this place, till his own are vacant, three weeks hence: and his mind seems absolutely at ease. Pray believe me, My dear Miss Landor,  
 Yours very faithfully ever  
 Robert Browning.

I propose to send you the first account at the end of this month, and the next, two months after, at the end of December - after which, I will submit a regular quarterly account. The expenses are so little, hitherto, that we should be enabled to calculate them under ordinary circumstances from the present sample only.



Florence, Casa Guidi, Via Maggio -  
Nov. 2. '59.

My dear Miss Landon,

I have indeed been stupid to take the model-draft for the wick itself, and give you so much trouble in consequence: you must attribute it mainly to my being aware that many important simplifications have taken place in wick-making since I resided in England, and ignorant of their precise extent: & then, I was misled by the pencil-indications in the blank spaces. However it is at last set right now (at last - thro' the difficulty of finding another wick-maker, the former one having left Florence) Your Uncle's Holograph exactly corresponds in outward fashion with the duplicate you receive. I hope if there should have crept in any error after all, or if any fresh suggestion should present itself to you: - then will be no hesitation on your part in apprising me now or at any future period - for, I do assure you, your Uncle's readiness to go thro' the business again was exemplary - and you cannot imagine any trouble in such a proceeding to myself. And to show you that on any point in which I might be seriously troubled, I would promptly and frankly speak out - let me beg you to listen indulgently to a few words and then dismiss the matter from

your mind, as I will from mine. I conjecture by an expression in your letter that Mr Lander has, after all, mentioned a fancy of his which I hoped finally disposed of by the arrangements in the will. Before we left Florence he had wished, in the impulsive way you know, to give me, as a very unnecessary token of his kind feeling, the two or three pictures he still has a power over: I need not tell you, that I did my best to explain to him the impossibility of my accepting them: and whenever he has since recurred to the subject I have repeated that explanation - taking care to leave him in no doubt as to my appreciation of his generosity. When we began upon the provisions of the will, he said "But the pictures are your" - and I then set, as I believed, the matter at rest. Yet, as he has since written to you about the "final disposal of his property," and as I know he has nobody, whatever to whom, rather than yourself and sister, he would bequeath his effects (for I ascertained that, before putting in your names) I cannot help, as I say, suspecting that he has ended by desiring you to give effect to his wish in my

behalf. It would be useless to speak to him further - but I rely on your goodness and regard to my own sense of propriety to consider any such bestowal of his pictures as simply impossible. My whole relation with your uncle would be absolutely spoiled on any other understanding. I will not add a word more - referring what I have unwillingly, tho' of necessity, written - to your sympathy and intelligence - except to beg you will not even reply to what, as a request to your goodness, - you have given me a right to consider granted; - and for the gratitude which I thank you heartily.

Mr Lander will go into his new rooms at the end of the week when our preparations shall have been completed. He is very well & in good spirits. You must explain to the Trustees that if he has again applied for money it is entirely thro' his ignorance of the arrangements with me - at least, of their exact nature - he professes, at times, a good natured anxiety on my account that I should be reimbursed for his expenses in advance (Hibernia) - and it is difficult not to quiet him by informing him that I am actually so. And



I am more and more convinced that it will never do to make him quite aware of his latitude in ways and means. He is bent; for instance; on handing over the first clear surplus money he proposes, to Garibaldi for his purchase of muskets: and meanwhile is subject to temptation from sundry old pictures of problematic value as signboards. He continues, I observe, in the most complete misconception as to his property in England, and power over it - sometimes saying that he has not a farthing and; a few minutes' after; - adding that he expects a clear income of so much. Fortunately, however, his thoughts never turn in this direction voluntarily, and his cheerfulness never seems affected in any degree by his adopting the one or the other hypothesis. I shall quiet his mind about my own liability, and he will probably cease to concern himself further with money-matters.

I only leave myself room to thank you for your expressions of kindness to my wife: she reciprocates

them, as does, very sincerely,

The "accounts" in my next letter: they would take up too much room in this.

Yours, faithfully ever,

Robert Browning.

Rome, Via del Tritone, 28.

Dec. 8. '59.

My dear Miss Landon,

we have been forced, you see, to leave Florence for the winter: I don't think, however, that I have omitted anything necessary to your Uncle's comfort during my absence. He has now been a month established in his new lodgings: he has a sitting, dining, & bed room, communicating with each other, and a small book-room - all on the first-floor and overlooking a pleasant strip of garden: on the ground-floor are rooms for Mrs Wilson (Madame Romagnoli) and a servant. The apartment of Mr Landon is newly furnished, carpeted &c. throughout, and he professes himself very satisfied in all respects. His family have returned his four pictures, and - he declares - about two thirds of the other effects he desires: I am afraid I can help him no further in that matter. He seems to like Mrs Wilson greatly - but shows occasional irritability at trifles: chiefly occasioned by his own forgetfulness or misconceptions - that no foresight can prevent: but these left happy moments pass, and he



becomes good-natured as usual: I wish, with all my heart, that I could never leave his elbow, and then even these moments might be spared him: to me, he is always extraordinarily affectionate & obliging. He promises to write to me every week - Mrs Wilson will also write - and I have arranged with Dr Griswinsky, a clever and sympathetic friend, acquaintance of his & mine, so as to ensure him the promptest attendance in case of need: other friends here engaged to keep him in sight; and, should a necessity arise, I shall be with him in an day. I left him rather the worse from the effects of a cold caught a fortnight ago. He reads & writes as usual - you may have seen a letter he addressed to "Mr. Jones." To my sorrow, he has been laying out some dozen pounds on pictures - repairing & framing a sad deal - about which he would hear no criticism: but, as he told me, that expense was incurred under the belief that his family would restore him a supposed balance on his account, and that he might dispose of his plate: I advanced the money, with a prudent admonition, and he assured me he should do nothing so venial for the future. He is a little more fantastic and exacting about the quality of his dinner than I had counted on - changing his tastes, and forgetting his own orders at the critical moment: but his appetite is very delicate & uncer-

tain and we are bound to enter it if we can.

As soon as I received your intimation that the will was correct in point of English law, I proceeded to get the duplicate properly disposed of according to Tuscan usage. It was accordingly attested by two Tuscan witnesses (my servants) and certified valid by two notaries, and by them deposited in the archives at Or San Michele. The additions - (no alterations whatsoever) absolutely required were the words "in my apartment at Via Mazzini, Florence" after the concluding date - and, after the final signature, the words "executing no previous" - I cannot think these superfluous additions will in any degree damage the English duplicate - the law's action being plus non vitiat" or too much does no harm - moreover they are not inserted in the body of the will: the words of them, however, would have invalidated the instrument. I suspect, beside, that this <sup>publicly</sup> Tuscan will be that which you eventually act upon.

I think, after all my promises, I shall wait till the end of the month before I transmit you our account - as with the added experience of the last weeks, we shall be able to calculate better future expenses, and the "quarter" will fall into their natural places.

My wife has borne the six days' journey better than I was entitled to hope: she is established in sunny rooms here, and feels stronger. Her true regard goes to you with that of yours very faithfully, Robert Browning.



Rome, Via Felice 126. Jan. 28. 61.

My dear Miss Landon,

First, forgive & understand the reason of the long delay in replying to your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> ult - you must know how its kindness affected me: but I wanted to procure for you, if possible, one of the little wretched pamphlets which have been giving you so much annoyance, & here it is at last: we have moreover only a monthly courier now (by whose intervention I send this) & the post is hardly safe for a bulky letter, yet the delay has been the more vexatious inasmuch as I think I can set some of your pens at rest. The pamphlet was never printed in Florence; but in London soon after your Uncle's return to his family at Piesole: I found in the note of expenses incurred by him during his stay, - furnished me, at his desire, by Mrs Landon, - the particular cost of printing the thing. I suppose they could not prevent it - but it was done there. He used to give copies to any acquaintance or stranger, - a friend of my own, for instance, after five minutes' talk with him. His constant desire was to get a reprint circulated in America, and he applied for that purpose to two persons, each of whom I was able to convince easily enough of the true defectiveness, instead of force, they would inflict on Mr Landon by accepting his commission: last year however, Mr Fields foolishly promised to gratify him - assuring me afterwards that he would take care nothing further was done in the matter - so I understood him - but he sent six copies in very deed, with a note to myself bidding me have no apprehension for this was simply done to quiet your Uncle - perhaps, to prevent his attacking anybody else with his solicitations. I fancy one of these must be the copy sent to your "mischievous person" - I possess a second - and here is a third rescued from the hands of a friend. I have sent the advertisement to Fields, as the best example of what harm his complaisance may do, and trust there will be no repetition of the great mistake. I do not believe your Uncle is writing, or has written anything on the subject of any other grievance, at least with a view to publication; nothing of kind you allude to, concerning Mr Renter or yourself: it is possible he may have communicated his impressions & hallucinations by letter to English or American



correspondents, but not in the formal way of a statement: the introduction I alluded to were rather like carry over - the growing M.S. & corrected copies of his works & the first comes as a child - writes his toys - and the selfish & lamentable desire for seeing himself in print, which makes him write & send off to no matter what transfers, justified the hatched sheets full of mistakes & virtual political ~~controversy~~ - or, - what I hardly like better - some merely literary dialogue, however enough, but also sadly inferior (and so, injurious to the effect of) the production of his other day. There is no person in me, nor anybody, to stop him - for he writes and posts and forgets altogether, and when the result is returned to him weeks after, nobody is more surprised than himself. He wrote to me two days ago that he had done nothing whatever lately "except composing a dialogue about Joan of Arc which he has sent to Mrs. Norton (late Miss Lynde) to do as she pleases with it - probably it may appear in some periodical within a fortnight -" "Probably," and he never showed me a line without adding that it was the last he should ever write! The pamphlet he printed lately, to my extreme annoyance, was only an Italian translation of his own dialogue between Giovanni and his father - such Italian <sup>(how his long domestic quest liberated)</sup> as his long domestic quest liberated - and which was managed for him entirely by his friend Walker - all but the preface for it, which you will observe by the item in the account which I enclose. It is not altogether so satisfactory to me, the expenditure having exceeded our proper allowance for the half year: this is entirely attributable to Mrs. Norton's purchase of more pictures and frames - the last, he spent me unexpectantly; and still more to the prolonged visit of Mrs. Norton, who came in complete ignorance of his arrangements and found real difficulty in being allowed to leave at last. Of one thing you may be sure - your uncle is not disposed to deny himself any addition to his comforts: he gives to his heart's content, spends no little of his time in conversing how that shall be, and makes me laugh when I remark he has his pretentious contribution with a single dish - a good deal of expense was incurred too by ~~his~~ accompanying us to Fieschi & back in the summer he is able to go out often, and I really could not venture to leave him behind - he needed the change of air & place, besides, and I think the moral effect has been good also. But I will take care

that we proceed more moderately next half year. For the rest, his health is excellent, he gets on better with Mrs. Bonaguidi (who, in turn, reports very favourably of him to me) and, as luck will have it, the maid of the house is in high favour not undeservedly - so much so, that on Christmas Day her parents and sister had the honor of dining with Mrs. Norton, - merrily & well! He writes to me in his usual good spirits about Admiral Erskine & the Cleaveland Club, gives me a satirical epistle and says himself "the old grey head &c." And all their alloy goes with some of the rarest & purest intellectual gold that ever was trusted to man in the shape of a talent! accompanied by not a few jewels as precious, fine & high estimate, zeal for the right, daring generosity: the pity of it all!

Thank you heartily for your sympathy with my wife: the life of her sister was hard to bear, but she is recovering in a measure - indeed, beyond what I ventured to expect: the physical weakness is painful indeed, and helps the mental depression too much, but as the weather grows milder I shall hope for improvement in that respect also. We have had fine weather lately, never any of your strange cold, of which the newspapers give us daily notice, only wet (and warm) weeks at the beginning - and a touch of romanticism allayed by plentiful sunshine & this the end (as we judge) of a Baron winter. I had a kind & pleasant letter from Mrs. Norton a fortnight ago - he has recovered from his attack of illness & is at present quite well. Pray accept the kind regard of my wife - I shall say you were my own & your uncle. Of course you will tell me freely, always say: nothing that seems to you as within my power to amend in the various points of our house keeping: on my side, I will do all I can to check any fresh introduction: one does it by asking "Is it worth while, Sir, for a man like you to contest a matter with people such as you describe?" but I cannot always be there - unfortunately, failing or succeeding, however, I am sure, yours most faithfully  
Robert Browning.



I will preface the account by mentioning that the currency in Tuscany, being changed last summer, and the Italian Lira (or French Franc) having taken the place of the old Paul, I give the expenditure accordingly. Here, if you please, that 56 centimes makes a paul: of course, 100 centimes make a Lira or franc, as in France. I shall reduce the amount into the old currency, in order to enable you to compare it with the previous accounts; and beside, the bankers continue the old currency, whatever may be the reason.

I could not do otherwise than pay Mad<sup>e</sup> Romagnuoli for the Rooms which were unoccupied during the visit to Siena - letting them to anybody else would have been out of the question, and up to the last moment Mrs Landor was bent on leaving Mad R. and going to Siena en gascogne - an impossible arrangement. Her own health was improved by the change - another consideration, for I was beginning to fear she would be unable to continue her services.

I may also mention that the various entries for postage, and the like, by no means account for all expenses of that nature, which are regularly included in the weekly bill; but exceptional disbursements of my own, - as when, for instance, I have taken letters to the post &c Mr Lambor demands, & promptly, whatever he wants - and is only obstinate in refusing to want certain articles, a new hat for example, which no entreaties of mine can induce him to substitute for an old one. After all, let us be content with what we accomplish: it is not altogether perfect - for he is truly difficult to manage: judge by an incident which occurs to me. We left Siena & travelled to Florence amid his repeated assurances that he had never been so happy in his life, all thro' our attentions &c On arriving at night, I left him in the carriage for a few minutes in order to help the coachman to carry my baggage upstairs - she being utterly exhausted and very ill. On returning in fact as I could merely from the landing on the first floor, I found no Mrs Landor! He had, either in impatience or from pique at being left for three or four minutes, jumped out & proceeded by himself to his own house in the dark - really by a dangerous bye-lane: I sought for him at his own door, after a short time. Yet he knew we had prepared refreshment for him, and never would suffer him to leave our house unaccompanied. He said, we must have been wanted for this &c &c



Florence, July 6.<sup>th</sup> 61.

My dear Miss Lauder,  
 It is probable you have already in some way been apprised of the calamity that has befallen me: my wife died a week ago. I have been unable to see even your Uncle yet - your letter, however, reminds me of my duty to you - or rather of the apprehension that this news may cause you lest fresh trouble arise from this grave change in my life; I shall endeavor therefore to say that I hope there needs follow no material inconvenience to you nor to your Uncle from my next step - which will be to leave Italy at once; the object of my fifteen years stay being gone. I go in a few days to Paris and eventually to England, leaving to occupy myself with the education of my child. I shall best deserve all the confidence of your family by speaking as plainly and intelligibly as I can (for I have difficulty in speaking at all) and giving you the results of my two years' experience of the best course to be taken with your Uncle - it would be affectation and unworthiness to pretend any uncertainty on my part - on the other hand, you will decide as you judge best and behave perfectly in every event. It will be for the best then that all my arrangements continue, that I communicate with my Brother and Mad<sup>e</sup>. Romagnoli, and occasionally with Mr Lauder: he cannot be treated more advantageously than he is, nor do I believe that a person to replace Mad<sup>e</sup>. R. would be found. I know no one here who would be able or willing to take my own place and superintend your Uncle



- no one who has sufficient interest in him to go thro' the predic-  
 - tions of obtaining his respect - for love's sake, at least:  
 I think I have enough influence to manage him from  
 Paris as from Rome, in virtue of the habit of acquiescing  
 in my arrangements which two years have induced. His  
 family, I am told, are desirous of taking him back: I see  
 none of them, and can only give you my confidential & honest  
 advice never to allow it - which is the same as saying, never  
 to place his allowance in their hands and leave them to  
 administer it as they please: he would not stay with them  
 a week, if escape were possible, and his violence would  
 soon furnish them with excuse for making it impossible.  
 Without the allowance, they will undertake nothing of  
 course. I am far from guaranteeing the success of my own  
 plan: the serious responsibility and not inconsiderable  
 increase of trouble to myself may all be in pure waste -  
 but there is a chance of his continuing to be comfortable  
 in the enjoyment of your bounty - and as to his doing  
 so under any other conditions, I do believe. As to poor M. D:  
 I suspect my knowledge of him is already in advance of yours,  
 for you feared he might have been humbly excited by the  
 communication of his Brothers: he appeared he was quite  
 amused and put in spirits by the notion of having nearly  
 played a trick which might have been successful, and of its  
 all ending in the schoolmasters mere reprimand - nor was  
 there one particle of sincerity in his excuses to you or pro-

- fessions of contentment to me: he protested more earnestly that  
 he wanted nothing, had wanted nothing, and should require nothing  
 till I don't know when - and, now he knew when his money came  
 exclusively, would behave to perfection - and yet, a week after,  
 there was put into my hands a fresh and augmented letter  
 and libel about the geranium which he had intrusted a friend  
 to order to printed in America at his expense - he requiring  
 "only twenty copies" - now he knew that he had no means of his  
 own of doing this, and that, once the publication effected, all  
 he could avoid - the money would have to come from his brother  
 whose interests he was so chary of infringing upon - and  
 through my help, whom he was all gratitude to and who would  
 be infinitely annoyed by the success of his ruse: the lady  
 friend brought the letter to me, fortunately - and with always  
 take these fireworks out of his fingers when he will let her -  
 so what should we gain by her moving her quarters, as you  
 seem to desiderate? Mr. Lambor must have some pretty girl  
 to devote himself to and some luckless ordinary woman to tease  
 - the trivial daily meal and drink: failing a good, conscientious  
 person like the lady we refer to, he would cultivate the kitchen:  
 - women's fact, he was discovering undeveloped worlds of worth in  
 the poor little "domina di faccenda" and corresponding infamies in  
 M. D. Bonaparte's treatment of her, when this brighter vision engaged  
 his thoughts. Don't call me harsh this time - dear Mr. Lambor - the  
 state of my mind permits me neither to gloss over the truth nor to feel  
 anything but infinite pity for it. I sincerely wish to be of use as long



as I may: there is partly infirmity, sensibility to excuse this sad work - but I much fear there is a taking advantage of these for a pretext and excuse: I shall never mention the matter to him - for he would have "forgotten all about it" - about its being wrong, about his promising - in short, it would be all the tactics of a child employed by one of the rare and true men of genius! Still the cub is - on the whole I can do far more with him than anybody else - shall I try and continue, even at a distance? There are ~~poises~~ who will stand quiet at the voice of the groom - when a stranger finds it hard to hold them by the bridle. I will enclose you the note he sent me two days ago, to show you how we stand "up to nearly the last minute: very likely when my back is turned he may express himself less favorably: I have just the same earnest desire to know him that I had two years ago. I have material interests in Turin, founded perfectly &c and must continue my relations with the Banker & others but it is utterly out of the question that I should remain there a minute longer than I can help. You will write, if you please, to me care of Miss Browning, 151. Rue de Grenelle, Faubourg St. Germain, Paris". I have no time to wait your answer, nor indeed is it necessary: you can approve (as I suppose you will) or not, and be equally sure of my assistance to the last. I cannot reread this letter, which must read as strangely as my feeling in writing it is strange. You will understand and sympathize with me I know: may excuse me also to your mother, if it is necessary to communicate with them. Very truly yours, dear Miss Browning, Anne Mrs Simpson - I am sorry for him, too. Robert Browning.



19. Warwick Crescent,  
Upper Westbourne Terrace  
Jan 12. '64.

My dear Miss Landon,

I submit again the "accounts" - which  
continue, I think, satisfactory. Mr Landon would ap-  
pear, however, to be rather unwell with Lumbago -  
he is unable to get up, or sleep himself without opi-  
-um: though Mad<sup>re</sup> Romagnoli hopes that this  
will go off - she is embarrassed by the departure of her  
husband for Rome - the said husband's strength  
having been put into requisition for this difficulty:  
I have directed her to get assistance if the necessary  
nursing be too much for her without it. I hope  
that with the better weather amendment will follow.

Mr Landon was so well a few weeks ago, that  
I thought it of little use to write. Indeed there  
was rather formidable activity at one time,  
about the publication of these "Folios" - and the  
misapprehensions attending it, as usual - out  
of all troubles, nevertheless, we are now got, I  
believe - Mr Wiseton having helped energetically.



I will not give you the unbusinessy particulars - suffice it that at present Mrs. Twickleton is the man - (I wish Mr. Lunder had always judged or guessed so accurately!) For Mr. Walker is - never mind what! - and, more - unpleasant fact of all, Mr. Ponter is in favour again, for as good reason as ever he was out of favour: - fortunately am where I was! The Book is really a wonderful one, and I delight in seeing the acknowledgment of its rare qualities in reviews which will give the author pleasure, whatever he may protest.

I should - or, should I? - tell you that an infamous letter of abuse was sent lately to Mr. L. - probably from the old enemy at Bath: it was beneath notice, and only should be mentioned or remembered as illustration of the writer's true character.

I trust that your sister enjoys tolerable health - that yourself and your sister are well in every way. Give my true respect and regard to one & all - and believe me ever most faithfully yours

Robert Browning.

| 1863 Mr. Lunder's Account |                                      | Line. Antisima. |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| June 27.                  | (Omitted in last account) Expenses - | 34. 82.         |
| July 5.                   | weekly expenses.                     | 56. 08          |
| 13.                       | do                                   | 30. 05          |
| 19.                       | do                                   | 32. 22          |
| 25.                       | do                                   | 32. 69.         |
| 30.                       | Rent (Oct term) do                   | 112. .          |
| "                         | Service do                           | 70. .           |
| August 1.                 | weekly expenses                      | 37. 41          |
| 8.                        | do                                   | 36. 22.         |
| 15.                       | do                                   | 26. 62          |
| 22.                       | do                                   | 30. 77          |
| 31.                       | Rent                                 | 112. .          |
| "                         | Service                              | 70. .           |
| Sept 1.                   | weekly expenses                      | 52. 46          |
| 7.                        | do                                   | 50. 78.         |
| 14.                       | do                                   | 28. 74          |
| 21.                       | do                                   | 32. 10.         |
| 28.                       | do                                   | 43. 18.         |
| 30.                       | Rent                                 | 112. .          |
| "                         | O. S. Service                        | 70. .           |
| Oct 5.                    | weekly expenses                      | 65. 23.         |
| 12.                       | do                                   | 40. 03.         |
| 18.                       | do                                   | 32. 97.         |



|                                  |                          |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Oct 25.                          | weekly expenses          | 39. 92.            |
| 31.                              | Rent                     | 112.               |
| "                                | Service                  | 70.                |
| Nov. 1.                          | weekly expenses          | 34. 88.            |
| 8.                               | do                       | 52. 32.            |
| 16.                              | do                       | 42. 54.            |
| 22.                              | do (wood &c)             | 77. 10.            |
| 29.                              | do                       | 45. 95.            |
| 30.                              | Rent                     | 112.               |
| "                                | Service                  | 70.                |
| Dec 7.                           | Account, Curtains & wood | 147. 47. $\phi$    |
| 13.                              | do                       | 40. 10.            |
| 20.                              | do                       | 73. 47.            |
| 27.                              | do                       | 43. 99.            |
| 31.                              | Rent                     | 112.               |
| "                                | Service                  | 70.                |
| Total,                           |                          | <u>2351. 11</u>    |
| equal, at 25 = £1. to            |                          | <u>£94. 2. 1</u>   |
| Expended on acct of Mr Landor -  |                          | 94. 2. 1           |
| In Hand from last account 91. 2. |                          |                    |
| Recd. July. 50                   |                          | } <u>191. 2. 0</u> |
| Oct. 50                          |                          |                    |
| On Hand,                         |                          | <u>97. 1. 11</u>   |

$\phi$  This expenditure was authorized by me - Mr Landor had a fancy for some lined moose curtains, in place of those in use, to be paid for by himself - and I saw no objection & they are said to prove very nice & comfortable. RB.



Maison Isabelline, Cambo près Bayonne,  
Aug. 19. 64 (Basses Pyrénées.)

My dear Miss Lander,

I was surprised indeed to hear from you that Mr Lander had changed his apartment - it being altogether at variance with my own report: I wrote at once to Florence, and have only just now got an answer - delayed by my own moving from place to place. Madame Romagnuoli assures me that it is a mistake arising from the alteration of the name of the street and number of the house - the proper address being now, 93, Via della Chiesa. She adds that, although settled for another half-year, she may be obliged to change after all for various reasons given in a letter to my Town address - i.e. before she was instructed to write to Paris: nothing is sent me from London. I shall inform myself properly



p. [2-3]

Caption: 1864 Aug 19

Image ID: 32594332

about this - but was anxious to let you know at once that there had been no step taken without my knowledge. Mr. de R. encloses to me the receipt of the rent, including the eight additional dollars per annum, - with which I shall not trouble you. Mr. d'Andor seems to be very well, though sadly deaf.

I shall remain here till Sept 13.

I trust your Uncle continues in good or improved health. My father is even younger than last year, and has been enjoying the journey so far. This is a pretty place, an easy walk from Spain: we could get no rest to the west of our foot at Breachon, La Joste de Bouch, Biarritz, nor Saint Jean de Luz - but hope to pass two or three weeks at this last, when the visitors shall have with them: the crowds at every sea.

2 side place are portentous.

With kindest remembrances to your sister, and  
all regards to your Uncle,  
Ever faithfully yours  
Robert Browning.



Maison Gastonbide, Plage des Basques,  
Biarritz, Bases Pyrénées.  
Sept. 25. '64.

Dear Miss Landon,

You will in all likelihood have been informed before this can reach you, of what, by some delay, is only this moment communicated to me in a letter from Mad<sup>e</sup> Romagnuoli - the news of the decease of poor Mr Landon from all further pain and trouble on the 17<sup>th</sup> at or about 12 o'clock: he had been more than usually unwell this last week, but would not see a doctor till yesterday: Dr Wilson is in Germany, so we got Dr Frazer - but he continued to grow worse, could not swallow anything, and this morning, in the most quiet, tranquil way, departed this life. His sons have come and ordered the funeral and I sent Ferdinand to Count Cottrell. I believe he will be buried on Monday. <sup>these words</sup>



are all that she writes at present. What can I add to them?

I am supposing that there is no danger of any shock to you from my communicating the news as abruptly as I have done - it cannot well be that you are thus long in ignorance of it. My letter was even kept here in the town four & twenty hours (I see by the post-mark) before delivery.

I am really too full of the many things that are borne in upon me by this event, to say anything about it. It is one of the most gifted souls the world ever produced that has thus passed away; all the weaknesses drop at once, and what grandeur remains!

I shall write immediately to Florence, and whatever I learn, you <sup>may</sup> depend upon

receiving. Mr Landor's will, the only real <sup>(of which Mr W. Landor of Rugby has a duplicate, executed in English form)</sup> one, is to be found where I caused it to

be deposited according to Tuscan Law. I left a memorandum on the subject with my friend Coltrick, - to whom Mr de R. has had recourse, as I directed. A fantastic "will" - of no value - was sent to me two years ago; I kept it, since it was called a will, - and you shall have it on my return to London which will be in about a fortnight. I will endeavour to close my accounts, and settle with you as soon as possible: I dare say there will be calls on us, even yet, for the last expenses.

How earnestly I hope that this page out of darkness and decay into light and life will not pass merely upon those noble relatives who have deserved that



reward which their own consciousness will  
at once supply. Assure them of my deep  
sympathy, however unnecessary the  
assurance; and you, Mrs Miss Lander,  
with your sister, will understand what  
a prick it ~~must~~ ever be to me that I  
have been associated so long with your  
feelings, and ~~instrumental~~ in the com-  
- munication of so much kindness. You  
must employ me to the end if you think  
I can be of the slightest further service,  
- that I scarcely need say.

I have said, I think, that I stay here  
in all probability till Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - then return to Paris,  
(151. Rue de Grenelle, Pans? St Germain) and  
finally to London, 49 Warwick Crescent, Upper West-  
- (borne Terrace,) about a week after.  
Ever yours most faithfully ~~Channing~~



Biarritz, Oct. 3. '64.

My dear Miss Lander,

Thank you heartily for your letter. I was doubtful whether I should transmit at once the security intelligence contained in a second letter from Madame Romagnoli, or wait till the answer to my own enquiries should arrive - but that may not happen till I get to Paris or London. Her words are, "Mr Lander was buried on Monday; (19<sup>th</sup> Sept)" "his two sons only were here to take him to his resting-place, and his son Walter said he would see to the expenses of the funeral. I have seen neither Comte Cottrek nor Brini" (the Banker) - and when Ferdinando took the paper" (my memorandum of the existence and depositure of the will) "to C. Cottrek, he said it would be better he gave it to his son, which he did. Since the funeral I have seen no one. What is to be done with the Pictures here, and a Drawer, which is sealed, with little in it except the watch and last writings?"



I can only account for this strange and unseemly absence of friends at the ceremony by supposing that most of them were away from the town at the time, and that the word was slow in coming to their knowledge: it struck me painfully. Mad<sup>r</sup>. Romagnolo adds "Poor old man - it is a loss to me - but as it was, no one could wish him to remain: he did not seem to enjoy anything, and was so deaf that he could hear nothing; but at the last he was very patient." Madame R., and her husband, and occasionally the Porter, sat up with Mr Landor by turns; his sons were constant in their attendance, and there is no cause for regret on that score, happily.

Mr Landor's last note to me bears the postmark of Aug: 18: he was misunderstanding the wish of the Landlord to resume the occupation of his apartments; and stated energetically that he would not leave them. I desired Mad<sup>r</sup>. to bring the landlord to any terms and secure

a quiet possession for the next six months at least; this was done - I suppose by the usual persuasive - and I am apprehensive from what she says, that the apartment (a word I never spell rightly now) may remain on her hands, which would be embarrassing under present circumstances. I have advised her to try and get out of her bargain with as little loss as possible; and to give me as soon as convenient a detailed account of all expenses, which I will defray, and then return you the residue of our funds, which you know is no inconsiderable sum. The next quarter is £50 which be altogether unnecessary, and should be returned at once. I shall mention to Mad<sup>r</sup>. R. the kind feeling of your family for her, - I know she has been indefatigable in her services, and believe that in the main they were successful in lightening the heavy load of those last years.



The will is liable to be carried into effect by the Authorities in Florence, I believe: the family will probably communicate with you on the subject. It is perhaps proper to repeat that I absolutely decline receiving any legacy of Pictures, or any article of value whatever, and transfer my right in such legacy to yourself and your sister: the only exception I should make would be in the case of any M.S. or valuable books which the testator may have assigned to me from quite other motives, to preserve, or examine, or destroy. I remember that it was impossible to prevent the insertion of some such clause in the will, and that I explained its appearance to you at the time.

I beg to offer my deep sympathy to your Uncle, and to assure them that, whatever my endeavours may be worth, they command them now and always. I leave this place on the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. and hope to be in London by the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
ever faithfully yours, Robert Browning.



London, 19. Warwick Crescent, Westbourne Terrace.

Oct 12. '64

Dear Miss Louisa, he arrived last night - I confess to some anxiety - spite of all your kind reprobation - I finish the business - part of our relation, and return upon quiet memories of all that is now the Past. I had received a letter from Mrs. Ramagnoli - from which I make the following extracts as a beginning. "I received your two letters which were a great comfort to me, for I did not know what to do, and no one seemed, or cared, to take any part in poor Mr L's affairs here. What I have done is certainly not a great deal, but is enough to keep the rooms unoccupied." (i.e. the property would be in the way of any tenant who might otherwise take the rooms) - "His two sons came on Monday just as I had received your letter, and they would have taken away some things which he had given them - but on reading your letter they let them remain." (i.e. my letter mentioned the existence of a regular will) "Mr Walter says the large closed picture he gave to him. They have closed and sealed a drawer with his watch and his last writings - which cannot be much, as he was very unable to write at last. He sent his desk to Mr Walker at 22 Langham Place!" (this was last year) "Mr Walter L. said, to open the will here would cost a great deal of trouble and expense, which he did not care to have: but he would like very much if he could see a copy of the one in England." (this is simply refusing to go to the proper place and get it - at no expense what over, I believe. What is to be done? You can act upon the English will, having always the French duplicate to confirm it, if requisite. I really forget what was bequeathed, but have little doubt that everything but a few of the pictures is long since in other hands. I enclose the informal will subsequently sent to me) "I have had the Tappeziere to see and make a calculation of the damage done to the furniture and carpets - which I enclose" (this I desired should be done, and I said it - a moderate one, all the articles having been new at the time of occupation, and good of their kind.) She then gives the closing account, including all expenses I know of - not however charging as usual for service - I suppose in consequence of the month being incomplete. It results from here



accounts, which I also enclose, that I now hold of yours £94. 2. 5. quite apart from the £50 in Mr Foster's hands, of course. And this is at your disposal immediately.

With respect to Mad<sup>e</sup> Romagnuoli - what was your kindness please to do will be well done and gratefully accepted. The circumstances under which she entered on her charge, and which you enquire about, were this: she had married a servant of ours, Ferdinando, and with his savings & her own, had taken and furnished a lodging in the next house to Cambrini. - Ferdinando remaining with us, while she lived in the apartment, with her younger child, managed the letting &c, and in most cases made herself useful to the lodgers. When it became necessary to find some governess, I could not find any person, or even think of any person so fit, in the spiritual points of integrity and gentleness, for our purpose as this - and I induced her to leave the profits of the superintending - part of the business - up to her husband; who should have been to attend to it as much as he pleased; - and give her whole attention to Mr L: she therefore took the rooms she now occupies, furnished them, and managed very well till my own misfortune made me leave Florence: Ferdinando had to enter other service, and her lodging-letting was henceforth performed by deputy, and was given up at last. She proposes now to do the best she may with the rooms she cannot quit for the next six months - but I much fear that the out-of-the-way situation will be disadvantageous. All this is spoken in pure obedience to your expressed desire: I think she has done well, and know that it has been, at all events, her best - but your remuneration has been very adequate, and I never have heard a breath of murmure about "harder times" or "greater trials" - nothing but the proper sense of your goodness. She has now both children & boys with her; - and I fear we have somewhat of a battle to fight.

I find here also a letter written two months ago by Mr Kirkup containing some particulars which I will communicate when we meet - which, I am most happy to find, will be very soon. These particulars relate to some supposed interests of Miss Landor's



p. [3-4]

Caption: 1864 Oct 12

Image ID: 32594341

Miss Julia Anderson - which the writer thinks are affected by her sake -  
- from hearing a wrong account of the cause of the quarrel  
between her father & herself: R. writes, in his generous way,  
for the truth's sake, as he imagines it. But it is a matter that  
can well wait, and infinitely better be talked over than written  
about.

And now, in my turn, let me beg you, Miss Julia, not  
to be in the least hurry in coming to a decision about  
the matter treated of in my letter - for you must not catch a  
nervous, hasty way from this of mine. In fact, I wanted to  
put you in a position of being able to take things quietly  
carte sur table, and figure on paper. Besides, I have  
always - you must allow me to say - & that, in spite of your  
generous assurances - always considered myself the obliged person  
in our relation; trusted wholly, when very imperfectly known,  
and extraordinarily privileged from first to last: for you  
me, even in that informal paper, he remembered me - and  
I spent yesterday a quasi of a few lines - sent since I  
left England - showing that the old feeling remained.

Yours very faithfully  
Robert Browning

See how I have scribbled this foolish letter - on the  
wrong sides of the sheet - you must understand &  
forgive: a letter from Foster, full of his good, warm  
heart, was also waiting.

I had forgotten an item: somewhere in my accounts, for and  
against me, should figure the Picture, "The Michelangelo"  
&c. I hold it, or let it alone, but will append the  
particulars, for form's sake.





19. Warwick Crescent.  
Upper Westbourne Terr:  
Nov. 4. '64

Dear Miss Lander,

I heard last night from Mad. Romley:  
= much in reply to my letter:- The Banker has not  
replied yet - I suppose, needing to get the busi-  
=ness of the will settled first. You will find,  
however, that we might have almost spared  
him the trouble. Mad<sup>e</sup> R. writes that "Mr L's  
son has some writing of his father's last wishes,  
and all the remaining things here were left to  
them - which they came and took away,  
and gave me a receipt which I enclose  
to you" - and which I re-enclose to you.  
It is a very characteristic procedure,  
and quite explains the difficulty appre-



= handed in obtaining the will. After all, these gentlemen know that their names are appended at least to the informed will.

Mrs R. adds "I have the cushion which was bought last winter for Mr L: also two candlesticks; - they were in the Bank accounts." (Why did not these valuables follow "Mattress, bolster and quilt"?)

She says "All Mr L's accounts are closed, that I know of, but Doctor Almanze (?) whom I paid 2 dollars for his last two visits. I met him some days after card, and he said there were other 6 visits: how this was, I will tell you. He was sent by Mrs West, as her doctor, to see Mr L: the first visit, Mr L. asked me for a dollar for him: but not on the other visits; and I did not know exactly how they were meant." Depend

on it, there will be no interference of the family here! I mean "la famiglia".

Mrs R. receives with the utmost gratitude my intimation that the family - proper with express their satisfaction at her endeavours by some such present as you so generously signified. She shall receive it as soon as Brini's accounts arrive.

Forster will have written to you about the Piano: I only hope you have got it by this time - for, as I found somewhat to your cost, she had been obliged to cut a new front instead of simply changing the silk of the old one - fearing



that they would otherwise ~~make~~ a bad job  
of it - whence an impossibility of allow-  
-ing more than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. discount.

My own piano cost £110 - less 20 per cent,  
as in your case, and 5 per cent discount:  
- for which I contended, but in vain,  
under the different circumstances.

I trust you got home safely and  
found your Relations in good health:  
it was very pleasant to see you here,  
- ~~you~~ must remember that, whenever  
in the mood to gratify our warm-  
hearted friends.

With true regards to Mr Lander,  
Very faithfully yours  
R. B. Browning



19. Warwick Crescent  
Upper Westbourne Terrace, W  
Dec 2. '64.

My dear Miss Landon,

At last I have received the copy of the will for which my banker was instructed to apply: the fact of its having been translated; as well as the other formalities of which you will observe vouchers in plenty; - accounts for the delay, I suppose. The cost of the whole proves to be - not 36 <sup>souds</sup>; according to Mrs Landon's complaint to Mr Kirkup - but <sup>lire. centes<sup>mes</sup></sup> 71. 87. or under 14 <sup>souds</sup>: she certainly cannot have paid a farthing more than Mr Brini. You now have the virtually the document itself - and can send it to Mr R. Landon, who may act upon it forthwith. It is, as you know, an exact duplicate of the English will, and plain enough in its directions.

On receiving your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> I wrote at once to Mad<sup>e</sup> Romagnoli, apprising her of your ~~kind~~ most generous desire with respect to the ~~conscience~~ of the money in my hands. I had before informed her (you may remember) that some such acknowledgment was intended - and she bade me thank you most gratefully: but she went on to say that for various reasons she was doubtful whether



Caption: 1864 Dec 2

Image ID: 32594346

it would not be better, in the interest of her boys,  
 to return to England where her sisters are re-  
 spectably established, - and that, should she decide  
 on this, I must keep the money till she required  
 it. I have now written to tell her - first, to settle  
 the account with the doctor if still out-standing;  
 and then, - the probable sum which your <sup>Uncles</sup> minis-  
 try will confer upon her: adding, of course,  
 that it is at her disposal from this moment,  
 but that whenever she does receive it, she must  
 report the sum to you. She is probably tired of  
 lodging - letting, and anxious that Orestes and  
 Pyllades (as the couple were christened to the  
 amazement of the Northumberland Clergyman)  
 should be as English as may be. Her Husband,  
 honest and good-natured, has been unfitted, I  
 fear, by so many years of service, for doing  
 much towards the maintenance of his family,  
 though quite able to keep himself as before.  
 I will deduct the expenses of the will from

Mem: Received a Picton. Expense incurred  
 Case of Picture from Florence, per Bill - 4. 13. 4  
 Carman - 1. 0  
 Imparters' Bill, impacking  
 & opening - 2. 6  
 In Florence, packing & carriage  
 to Lybourn (28 hrs) - 2. 6  
5. 19. 4



Caption: 1864 Dec 2

Image ID: 32594347

|                  |                                     |                |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1864.            | Account.                            |                |
| July 1.          | Extra-ent, omitted last March       | Lire Italiane. |
|                  | "Eight Renaissance" about . . . . . | 40.00          |
| "                | weekly expenses . . . . .           | 32.62          |
| 11.              | do . . . . .                        | 38.28          |
| 17.              | do . . . . .                        | 29.24          |
| 23.              | do . . . . .                        | 32.68          |
| 31.              | Rent . . . . .                      | 112.00         |
| "                | Service . . . . .                   | 70.00          |
| Aug 1.           | Expenses . . . . .                  | 48.51          |
| 7.               | do . . . . .                        | 37.48          |
| 14.              | do . . . . .                        | 32.47          |
| 22.              | do . . . . .                        | 29.96          |
| 29.              | do . . . . .                        | 34.84          |
| 31.              | Rent . . . . .                      | 112.00         |
| "                | Service . . . . .                   | 70.00          |
| Sept 1.          | Expenses . . . . .                  | 53.62          |
| 12.              | do . . . . .                        | 49.70          |
| Oct. 3.          | Expenses . . . . .                  | 171.73         |
| "                | Apartment . . . . .                 | 112.00         |
|                  | Estimated damage to furniture       | 254.00         |
| On hand June 30. | 98.11.5                             |                |
| Rec'd July 1.    | 50.0.0                              |                |
|                  | 148.11.5                            | Lire I.        |
| Deduct           | 54.9.0                              | 1361.13.       |
|                  | <u>94.2.5</u>                       |                |

the money in my hands. I meant also to deduct those of the Picture; but on my sending the Packers' Bill to your Uncle, he returned it with a request that I would send also the note of expenses aforesaid, that he might pay both at once by a single order to me: I had not alluded to the latter; - but it seemed that I should spare trouble by complying. I have accordingly received the 5.19.4 mentioned in my accounts. I received also a second letter from Mr Landor - one of those Landorian letters, of which I really think the secret will die with the family (may the owner be avenged!) - quite enough to light up a life with the effluence from such nobility of nature. I hesitate to speak of your letters, dear Miss Landor; - but you can have no objection to a proper estimate of those of your Uncle.

Ever gratefully and faithfully yours

Robert Browning

I rejoice at Mr Henry Landor's amended health and beg to be most kindly remembered to him.



p. [3] verso

**Caption:** 1864 Dec 2

**Image ID:** 32594348



W.S. Handor & Browning

①

H. C. Minchin prints in W.S. Handor the Handor - Browning letters from the Baylor library. His transcriptions are incomplete, his editing is inadequate, his book is a jumble.

J. M. O. Rao ① W.S. Handor - Henry Handor (brother) letters, most of which date before 1859.

② Browning - Sophia Handor letters, concerning Brownings management of Handor's affairs, 1859 - 1864. These are not complete; the most numerous batch relates to the winding up of affairs after Handor's death in 1864. Nevertheless, they dovetail well with the Handor - Browning letters, and supply new information.

For a complete picture of events, it would be necessary to consult the correspondence of Browning, Mr Browning and Brownings friends who visited Handor in Florence.

only two Jmo letters make direct reference to a letter Minchin prints.

— p111 Handor to Browning. 22 January, 1861 is referred to in Browning to Sophia Handor, 28 Jan, 1861 (Jmo 7)  
"He writes to me in his usual good spirits about Admiral Eskine & the Channel Fleet, gives me a heartin epitaph & signs himself the "old Grey Beard L".

— p127 Sophia Handor to Browning, 20 May, 1861, is answered by Browning to Sophia Handor, 6 July, 1861. (Jmo 8)

Minchin Browning letters referring to material now with Jmo

— p115 Handor to Browning, <sup>9, March</sup> 1861. - one of Handor's letters to Henry Handor mentioned is with Jmo.

— p152 Handor to Browning, 13 November, 1862 - the proposed will, in Handor's autograph, dated 23 December, 1862 is with the Jmo papers

PTO.

p. 1 verso[?]

**Caption:** [MS notes concerning correspondence]

**Image ID:** 32594350

also Browning - Sophia Landor AHS (Jmo 12)  
3 October, 1864 refers to a note from Browning  
NOT in Minchin  
" Mr Landor's last note to me bears the  
postmark of Aug. 18: he was misunderstanding the wish of  
the landlord to resume the occupation of his apartments;  
and stated energetically that he would not leave them."



Caption: [MS notes concerning correspondence]

Image ID: 32594351



W.S. Handal - Browning letters printed by H.C. Minchin  
 "Walter Savage Handal"  
 London, 1934.  
 [dated from postmark]

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| p. 17.     | March, 1840          |
| p 18       | 12 November, 1845    |
| p 21       | — 1846               |
| p 28       | 27 July, 1859        |
| p 32       | autumn, 1859         |
| p 35       | early December, 1859 |
| p 37       | early December, 1859 |
| p 41       | late December, 1859  |
| p 45       | 1 January, 1860      |
| p 46       | January, 1860        |
| p 65       | — 1860               |
| p 67       | — 1860               |
| p 69       | early January, 1860  |
| p 70       | 10 January, 1860     |
| p 72       | January, 1860        |
| p 75       | 19 January, 1860     |
| p 79       | 11 February, 1860    |
| p 83       | 11 February, 1860    |
| p 89       | 18 March, 1860       |
| p 92       | 2 April, 1860        |
| p 94       | mid April, 1860      |
| p 96       | 22 April, 1860       |
| p 99       | 1 May, 1860          |
| p 100      | 15 May, 1860         |
| 12 p 102/3 | May, 1860            |
| p 106      | 4 December, 1860     |
| p 109      | late December, 1860  |
| p 110      | early 1861           |
| p 111      | 22 January 1861      |
| p 114      | late January, 1861   |
| p 115      | 9 March 1861         |
| also p 115 | 9 March 1861         |
| p 117      | mid March 1861       |
| p 119      | mid March 1861       |
| p 120      | — 1861               |

p. 2 verso

Caption: [MS notes concerning correspondence]

Image ID: 32594352

p122 - early April, 1861  
p123 April, 1861  
p124 17 April, 1861  
p124 April, 1861  
p131 June, 1861  
p131 2 July, 1861  
p132 July, 1861  
p132 30 July, 1861  
p133 28 August, 1861  
p136 27 October, 1861  
p138 23 November, 1861  
p140 24 December, 1861  
p142 22 January, 1862  
p144 2 February, 1862  
p144 Feb, 1862.  
p146 28 February, 1862  
p148 24 April, 1862  
p150 25 May, 1862  
p152 13 November, 1862  
p154 [December], 1862  
p156 27 April, 1863  
p157 7 May, 1863  
p158 May, 1863  
p159 24 May, 1863  
p160 July, 1863  
p162 20 July, 1863  
p165 3 August, 1863  
p165 23 August, 1863  
p167 30 August, 1863  
p168 September, 1863  
p170 late 1863  
p172 22 August, 1864.

also  
p127 letter from Sophia hander  
to Browning 20 May, 1861.



Caption: [MS notes concerning correspondence]

Image ID: 32594353

③  
Braoring - Sophia handal letters.  
 Jmo collection

|     |    |                 | 77 |                                      |
|-----|----|-----------------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 11 | August, 1859    | 4  |                                      |
| 2.  | 31 | August, 1859    | 4  |                                      |
| 3.  | 30 | September, 1859 | 3  |                                      |
| 4.  | 12 | October, 1859   | 4  |                                      |
| 5.  | 2  | November, 1859  | 4  |                                      |
| 6.  | 8  | December, 1859  | 3  |                                      |
| 7.  | 28 | January, 1861   | 4  |                                      |
| 8.  | 6  | July, 1861      | 4  |                                      |
| 9.  | 12 | January, 1864   | 4  | [Covers period June 1863 - Jan 1864] |
| 10. | 19 | August, 1864    | 3  |                                      |
| 11. | 25 | September, 1864 | 4  | [Khandar died 17 September, 1864]    |
| 12. | 3  | October, 1864   | 4  |                                      |
| 13. | 12 | October, 1864   | 4  |                                      |
| 14. | 4  | November, 1864  | 4  |                                      |
| 15. | 2  | December, 1864  | 5  |                                      |

[Note]

**Caption:** [Genealogical note]

**Image ID:** 32594354

