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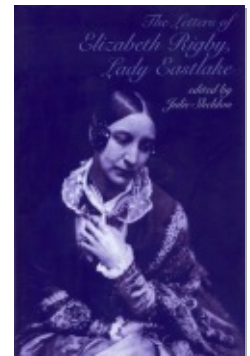
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you – increased by many that have come to light since. They are being appropriately framed, & I shall be happy when I see them all well placed in these rooms. Also a very early portrait by him of his mother I must show you, for it is the image of his dear self.

And now with many apologies I will give you a little, very matter of fact commission to do for me at Venice. Will you kindly get me 4 or 5 sponges, thick & round, about the size of two fists. They are light & will take but little room – but their worthlessness will show you that if prevented getting them I shall not take it to heart. And at all events remember me to Rawdon Brown.

And now I wish you well & wish I could do anything for you more than remembering you very faithfully.

Ever your's truly

Eliz Eastlake

Pray excuse an oversight in the side of my sheet [*she writes on the wrong side first*]

1. Captain Thomas Alexis de Wahl RN, late of HMS *Cordelia*, died following an outbreak of yellow fever on board the Royal Mail Steam Packet *Douro* on 14 November 1867 sailing home from the West Indies.

Letter to John Murray NLS Ms.42176

7 FitzRoy Square

9 Janry 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

I have been forwarded by mutual friends of the late Mr. Gibson (sculptor) & myself, to assist in putting together a Life of him. The Materials are sufficient – he has left a very quaint & interesting autobiography & also his friends have preserved many letters.¹

I have been engaged in looking through both of these sources. I am giving them a practical arrangement. Also I have penned what I feel to be a necessary preamble in order to prepare the reader for the character, before introducing the man.

Would you be inclined to undertake the publication of this? I know that his friends would be thankful that it shd come before the world under your auspices. I think one good volume wd be filled or two slender ones. And I wd let yr reader see my preamble & a portion that I have arranged – only bespeaking time to have both copied – if you would like. The life is very naïve & pretty but has to be treated with a little discretion.

I hope this trying weather is not bringing any suffering to you, or to Mrs. Murray, to whom I beg to be remembered.

Believe me yours faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

I am writing in darkness.

1. This and subsequent letters refer to her edition of *Life of John Gibson, R.A., Sculptor* (London: Longmans, 1870).

Letter to John Murray NLS Ms.42176

7 FitzRoy Sqre

15 January 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

I am not surprised at yr opinion of Gibson's autobiography. I was not aware that he had submitted it to you. I told him frankly in 1862 that I considered it entirely unfit for publication. Any more favourable view of a life of him is now founded not only on a second perusal of this autobiography – with a mental execution of a large portion of it – but also on other remains of many letters which I have perused. I have been so much urged to assist in this task that I would not refuse. I do not think that a very readable work can be put together by a judicious stringing of materials. There is no doubt that Gibson's character & conversation had a great charm for all who came in contact with him, & wherever I trace his character in his writings. I cannot but believe that others will be interested. Also it was his own wish that his Life shd be given to the world.

I send you my preamble, founded on a very sincere admiration & affection for him. And also such portions of the Life as I have put together from the various materials – but chiefly – as regards this early part – from the autobiography (much cut down): I remember the great interest with which I read years ago Hans Anderson's life by himself in wh: the early part, however egotistical, was something in the same style as Gibson's. Furthermore there is much that is interesting about Canova & especially about Thorvaldson. I will promise to strip it of its egotism & apparent vanity as much as I can. His letters to Mrs. Sandbach are very beautiful in parts, but so high flown that they will have to be used with great discretion. But the life is uneventful, as an artist's life must, or should be.

I know that Lady M: Alford¹ has formed a very high opinion of what

the autobiography could be made – I find a letter from Lord Lytton to Gibson giving excellent advice how to handle it.

I must leave it to your judgement. Believe me yr's faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

I have stopped just on the eve of his departure for Rome. I have no other available copy but what I send you.

1. Lady Marion Alford (1817–88), née Marion Compton, one of Gibson's patrons.

Letter to Henry Sandbach *PCA M/D/SAND/8/232*

7 FitzRoy Sqre

28 January 1868

Dear Mr. Sandbach¹

I have been wishing to write to you for some time, but I have had interruptions of a very sad kind in the loss of a very valued nephew, & in the work that had to be done. Also I felt it better to defer troubling you till I could tell you something definite regarding the proposed Life of our dear old friend Gibson.

And first let me thank you for the valuable letters & documents which you have entrusted to me, & which I have perused with deep feelings of admiration & respect. Gibson's letters to your dear first wife are a monument to her, tho' one of wh: I can only avail myself with discretion. No one who knew her can ever forget her, but these papers – memorandum book &c have, if possible to me, invested her memory with a still more loving reverence.² I cannot say how much I feel in this respect. The portion of the Biography also penned by her from his dictation is superior to that he afterwards penned for himself.

Now my object is, as you will readily believe, to put together these materials into a form which will suit a commonplace but critical public. I have to word for those who did not know the man as we did. The Biography as it is wd not be understood – very much misunderstood – the letters as they are, wd be liable to the same danger. My idea is to gather what I feel to be rightfully public property out of each & to make it if possible more concentratedly Gibsonian. The life is so uneventful, & the form of an autobiography so unavoidably egotistical that some pains must be taken to get the essence of the man so as to make it interesting to the public. This is my aim, whether I shall succeed is another thing.³ I have felt that it is necessary to introduce such a peculiar character as Gibson before letting him speak for himself.

I have therefore concocted a preamble in wh: I have endeavoured to describe his rare qualities. But before going much further I asked Murray whether he wd undertake such a Life. He answered that G: had submitted the Biography to him, & that he had (as I cd have told him) found it utterly unsuited for publication. But he allowed me to send him this introduction, & also a portion of the Biography which I had somewhat modified & rearranged. I enclose you his answer, which is a proof to me that he is not sanguine as to the success of any efforts to make it a saleable work. This does not affect my desire to make those efforts. But I feel that I do not stand alone in this matter – yourself, Miss Lloyd, Boxall & others have equal interest in it, yourself perhaps the most. Now I find from Miss Lloyd whom I have seen since I recd Murray's answer that she is much disappointed at the result, also much disappointed that I shd consider it necessary to make great omissions & general minute alterations (as to English &c) in the Biography. Shd you in any way share this feeling I shd willingly resign the task. Also shd you feel with her, that Murray's verdict is not what you wish to be accepted & that another publisher shd be sought, on the very slender chances of better terms I hope you will tell me.

I have the Aurora – given to me by yr dear first wife. But I do not find in those pages an ode to Thorwaldsen of wh: G: makes mention. Can you allow me to see that?⁴

And now pray present my kind regards to Mrs. Sandbach.⁵ I can never forget the kind words she & you have written to me whilst I trod that dark Pass of Sorrow from which I am scarcely emerged yet. I am thankful however for feeling gradually better. Pray believe me dear Mr. Sandbach yr's very truly Eliz Eastlake

I must tell you, what distresses Miss Lloyd much – namely that I do not intend to give my name to this work. People are welcome to know that I have assisted in it & you may believe me that it wd gain nothing from the name on the title page. The Reviews will all tell that is ascribed to me.

1. Henry Sandbach (1807–95) of Hafodunos Hall, Wales. Much of Sandbach's collection of Gibson's work is now in the Walker, Liverpool.
2. Sandbach's first wife Margaret (née Roscoe) (1812–52), poet and novelist. She had begun writing Gibson's autobiography from his dictation in 1851 and their correspondence is a significant source of Elizabeth's biography.
3. Frances Power Cobbe had read Gibson's original manuscript: 'If my good friend Lady Eastlake had not thought it fit to prune his extraordinarily quaint and original Autobiography ... to ordinary book form and modernised style, I believe it would have been deemed one of the gems of original

literature, like Benvenuto Cellini's, and the renown of Gibson as a great artist would have been kept alive thereby'. See Frances Power Cobbe, *Life of Frances Power Cobbe*, 2 vols. (London: R. Bentley, 1894), vol. 2, p. 29.

4. *Aurora*, a poem by Margaret Sandbach, was inspired by the statue of the same name which was commissioned for Hafodunos.
5. His second wife Elizabeth (née Williams).

Letter to Henry Sandbach PCA M/D/SAND/8/233

7 FitzRoy Square

31 January 1868

Dear Mr. Sandbach

I received the two valuable little volumes yesterday morn'g, & am now in receipt of your most kind & encouraging letter, which would have given me the greatest mental assistance in my task. But I am sorry to tell you & Mrs. Sandbach that an obstacle has arisen since I wrote to you which compels me to resign the task. Miss Lloyd had much disturbed me by her strongly expressed opinion as to what might to be done with the materials, & still more so by venturing to me since I wrote to you the Introduction & a portion of the Biography which I had arranged & begged her to read without a comment, this tacitly showing her disapproval. I waited however before deciding whether I could continue the work under such circumstances till I shd have heard from you. And certainly your most reasonable & judicious views wd have made me set aside those of Miss L: But last eveng I received a letter from Mr. Murray saying that unless I gave my name his confidence in the success of work was so small that he must withdraw from the publication. I feel that I have been under a false impression from the first, having believed that it was my work that was required by the mutual friends of Gibson. As to my name nothing shall induce me to give it to the biography of G: or any one, while work of so much nearer claims remains apparently not done. I do not say that I intend to write a Life of my beloved Husband. I am sure he wd not wish that, but he has left a large amount of MSS which, till I took up Gibson's materials, I have been sedulously engaged in arranging, copying &c with a view to editing such portions as he had designed for publication. To this I may possibly prefix a short memoir – but all this requires mature deliberation, & advice which very few can give me. Having done this I shd have no objection, if required, to give my name to Gibson's

Biography, but I cannot do so beforehand. I have therefore no course left me but to withdraw from the task, not grudging the time I have given to it, for it has made better acquainted with Margaret Sandbach, & still better with Gibson. I have written to Miss Lloyd my resignation but have assured her that she or any friend who may undertake the Life shall be welcome, if they desire it, to the Introduction I have written, in which I have endeavoured to embody Gibson's fine character.

I can only thank Mrs Sandbach with your for your reiterated kind wish to see me. It is possible that I may come into yr part of the world after Easter in which case I shd be only too happy to come & thank you in person for all your kindness.

I am the more sorry to retire from my labour of love for Gibson because I feel how sorry it will make both of you.

Believe me dear Mr Sandbach

Yr's very truly

Eliz Eastlake

I need hardly add that all the materials in my hands shall be carefully returned. Miss L: has the biography in G's handwriting

Letter to John Murray *NLS Ms.42176*

7 FitzRoy Sqre

31 Janry 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday afternoon, which has taken me a little by surprise, tho' I entirely bow to your judgement. I have been under a false impression from the first, for in my innocence or vanity, I had imagined that it was my work that was required to give the proposed book a readable form. I attach no importance to myself in one sense, to my name, & refused to promise to give it when Gibson's friends first beset me to undertake the task. Now some of them are as dissatisfied with my refusal as you. I see that I was quite mistaken as to what it was they wanted from me. I could not dream of announcing to the public that I had been occupied on G's biography while other work is apparently not done. But I was literally pestered into promising to do it & did not grudge my labour, believg that it wd not take me long.

Now, however, I am as glad to retire from the task as you can be from the undertaking. I must add in justice however to Mr. Sandbach that he was perfectly satisfied to have accepted my conditions of work, & yours of publication.

Before long I will venture to submit to you a proposal concerning some of Sir Chas MS.S.

Believe me yr's faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

Letter to A. H. Layard *NLS Ms.42169*

7 FitzRoy Sqre

21 Feby 1868

My dear Mr. Layard

I was truly glad to receive your kind letter & to be assured that you were back safe, & had enjoyed your time in Venice. The sponges arrived soon after. They are beauties, & I can't thank you enough for executing so impertinent a commission.

I hope dear old Rawdon Browne [sic] remembers me. I think of him as one of my very few true friends – some day I hope I may see him again.

I have been having Venice much before my mind's eye lately, having been occupied in reading old MSS & journal books which contain Sir Chas' first impressions of Venice in 1828. Never very enthusiastic but with so much refinement of thought. These, & other papers of an early date which I am gradually reading & copying occupy my mind much with a view to some ultimate purpose. I am in no hurry to edit anything, for I feel that there are so few who can advise me on such matters (& of those how few will!) that I am anxious to let time & deliberation supply as far as possible the lack of other help. You are too much occupied to give your attention to these matters, tho' I neither doubt the power or the will but I shall certainly not decide what to do with these MSS without giving myself the chance of obtaining advice.

I am always at home of a morning – that is before 2. I have many things to show you having necessarily made great alterations in the disposition of the pictures in the drawing rooms – & placed many of the beautiful oil sketches. But the arrangement is in some respects temporary for Ld Dudley has not yet taken our Palma – the negotiation papers through Christie's hands. And the longer the picture is left with me the better I am pleased.

I shall be glad to see your Bonifazio sketch. We have somewhere a good watercolour drawing of the picture, but I have not yet been able to put my hand on it.

Ever dear Mr. Layard
 Your's truly
 Eliz Eastlake
 I had no idea you had never had my letter!

Letter to Louisa Harford BRO 28048/C/68/17

7 FitzRoy Square
 February 27 1868
 My dear Mrs Harford

I grudge not having answered your kind & always welcome note sooner, but I have literally taken advantage of your words, & seen Mr. Smith at my leisure which was not till yesterday. They have not yet received both blocks of marble – only one – but the other is expected next week, & he assures me, & I know from experience, that no time will be lost in Mr. Theed's studio in executing the work. The delicate columns – which are done on a turning lathe – are the only difficult part. I shall not omit to enquire again in a short time. Meanwhile I was beside our grave yesterday. My iron screen is nearly completed & it is necessary to place the stone foundations for it. I took a careful plan of these with me, & on Monday our good servant, Tucker, will be thus early in the morning superintending the work. I long to get the screen up, & to plant my little rose slips, which have kept alive in my care – & also a honeysuckle. If you should have a few seeds of any creeping annuals, grown at Blaise Castle, I shall thankfully put them in, but that will not be for a fortnight or more. But I would like a nasturtium – or a convalootus or canariensis from you.

I continue to be alone, dear kind Mrs. Harford & if I need God's gracious Help the more I can only say now that I find it more. Prayer is like an imperceptible anodyne when the heart sets about acting which mine does very often.

It is forlorn to sit alone in his dear place, at his Library table, but he is gone before, & must have left me, or I him, & I hope I can now begin to feel that I would rather have my thoughts with him in his heavenly home, than his dear earthly self here at my side.

I have had a great loss in Lady Cranworth's death. It was all that a Christian could aspire to – so peaceful & so sustained. She had been a shining light in the high station, & numbers will miss her help & her sympathy. Poor Ld Cranworth. 18 years older than she! Now 78! But that tells two ways.

I feel for you much as regards the difficulty of an inscription. My heart had made a very long & loving one, trying to do justice to the sweet union of qualities. But I am satisfied now that by the advice of a dry judicious friend, I cut it short, & reduced it to little more than facts. “To the loving memory” & “by his sorrowing wife” are all the feeling I indulged in. No length can do your dear One justice – one line as to his perfect Christian life & character will tell more – pardon me for saying this, where you have so many kind relatives & friends whose excellent judgement is at your service.

I am interrupted, so farewell dear Friend
Your truly affectionate
Eliz Eastlake

Letter to A. H. Layard *NLS Ms.42169*

7 FitzRoy Sqre

11 March 1868

My dear Mr. Layard

I have to thank you for two kind letters – & for the return of the M.S. I can't tell you how gratified & comforted I am by your opinion of these writings – the entire sincerity of which I am persuaded of. My dear One often quoted to me Bacon's aphorism “the secret of good writing is sound & abundant knowledge”. I am so glad that you feel that he has exemplified these words. And this knowledge & this conviction on art were the first of comparatively early investigations – for what you have read belongs to 1830 – I & I have the same clear principles in letters & fragments much earlier.

I have nearly completed copying another, & last, chapter of ‘How to Observe’ with which I shall venture also to trouble you. I assure you that I shall be only too grateful for your judgement & advice in preparing & arranging an edition of these Remains. I do propose publishing a selection whether as a 2nd vol: to his “Contributions to the Literature of the Fine Arts” (which vol: is out of print) or as a separate work, remains to be considered. There are also his Discourses before the R. Academy – first rate in their way – which are printed, tho' not published, & of which I will send you copies. I should also be very grateful if you would at you leisure read certain chapters which he had prepared for his 2nd vol of the “History of Oil Painting”. They come down to the best time of art & show a combination of philosophical, historical, & technical knowledge, to which I humbly

believe no one else has so thoroughly attained. Unhappily there are few besides yourself who can appreciate this. My object would be to be ready to publish in the spring of next year, &, if encouraged by my researches meanwhile, to arrange an Exhibition of his chief works at the same period. Meanwhile I shall pay Mr. Bellenden Ker¹ – who edited the essays – the compliment of connecting him, if I can get at him.²

Now to the other subject of your letter, which robbed me of sleep last night. I have not yet heard from Boxall – but no matter. The offer requires mature consideration on my part. I am aware that it is a fair offer to one so deeply interested in the concerns of the N. G. as I. At the same time it must be my question whether your offer can be set against the fact of eliminating one jewel from a now very small collection & one to which I am peculiarly attached. For it welcomed me to the drawing rooms where it has ever since been the prominent ornament. I must take a little time to think. In truth Mr. Boxall should have taken my advice, founded on your experience, & when you made the selection of the low priced Director pictures, you should also have bid for some of the others – which, one with another, as I impressed on him, would have appeared a small sum to the public, & which was always Sir Chas' way of proceeding.

However I can only be glad that he placed me in the position towards the N: G: which I now occupy – tho' it was a bad play of his cards for the acquisition of the higher priced pictures.

You must kindly allow me a little time.

Believe me your's very truly

Eliz Eastlake

1. Charles H. Bellenden Ker (c. 1785–1871), legal reformer and an early patron of Eastlake's work. He had lived in Cannes since 1860.
2. Eastlake's two published works were *Materials for a History of Oil Painting*, 2 vols. (London: Longman, Brown, Green & Longman, 1847) and *Contributions to the Literature of Fine Arts* (London: John Murray, 1848). John Murray undertook to publish a second edition of *Contributions to the Literature of Fine Arts* with Elizabeth's memoir.

Letter to John Murray NLS Ms.42176

7 FitzRoy Sqre

14 March 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

Your letter of the 11th required a little consideration & also I have had sudden & severe illness in the house, now happily over, which took up my time & attention.

I cannot hesitate to accept yr scheme & proposition regarding the remodelling of Kugler's Italian Painters, by the absorption of new information as Cavalcaselle's labours have brought to light. It is a task which will deeply interest me, & also contribute to increase my small knowledge of the History of Art.¹ At the same time I have much work now in hand preparatory to submitting to yourself & to Mr. Longman – as publication of Sir Chas two works – a more digested scheme for additions to each of those works. Layard has been kind enough to read & give me his opinion of a portion of MS belonging to so early a period as 1830–1, but, with trifling exceptions, more wanted, as a corrective of present art & criticism, now than ever.

I have also Gibson's Biography in abeyance, but that, when once I devote myself exclusively to it, will soon be got through. At all events I cannot have too much occupation, or prospect of occupation – & therefore I shall hope to be able to give my attention to the remodelling of Kugler as soon as you would find it desirable.

I will retain your letter on this subject, as a scheme on which to proceed.

Believe me yr's faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

1. Franz Theodor Kugler (1808–58), German art historian and chair of art history at the Universität in Berlin. Although no letters have come to light to document the fact, the Eastlakes had prepared an edition of Kugler's *Handbook of Painting in Italy, Part I: Italian Schools, Translated by a Lady. Edited with notes, by Sir Charles L. Eastlake ... Second Edition, thoroughly revised with much additional material*, 2 vols. (London: John Murray, 1851). The commission to remodel Kugler in 1868 was in response to recent connoisseurship, particularly the reattributions of Crowe and Cavalcaselle, that had rendered Kugler outdated. As subsequent letters reveal, this bitter and protracted commission occupied Elizabeth intermittently over the next six years, before appearing in 1874 as *Kugler's Handbook of Painting. The Italian Schools ... Edited, with notes, by Sir Charles L. Eastlake ... New Edition. Fourth Edition. Revised and Remodelled from the latest researches, by Lady Eastlake*, 2 parts (London: John

Murray). Thereafter Layard edited further new editions of Kugler in 1887 and 1891, this time incorporating the scholarship of Morelli.

Letter to Florence Nightingale¹ *BL Nightingale Papers*
Vol. LXIII 45,801 f.6

7 FitzRoy Sqre

8 April 1868

Dear Florence

(For that is always your name within me). I have been much interested by your letter & the Regulations, & am glad to have such chapter & verse in my knowledge. Wd that the Labourers were more for such a harvest! I do not doubt that the ladies of All Saints & other sisterhoods drain away a good many volunteers from you & setting aside periods of fashion & impulses of romance – which are always for evading the real battle of training – I fear that the standard of devotion for such service will always be lamentably low. From my very small experience in such matters, I find that it is the authority & matter of fact regulations (divested of the varnish of romance wh: the Ritualists give them) which deter volunteers – an objection which is the most proof of unfitness.²

However, wherever opportunity offers I shall gladly canvass for you. And in time I hope we may see our fellow countrywomen wiping off, as a race, the blot which in other matters also I have had occasion to detect on them – that of not being earnest in anything – not even in gain, where the French woman so greatly beats them.

I shall not readily forget yr portrait of the sweet Una you have lost. What more blessed career could an Englishwoman – with idle hands & unsatisfied heart – desire!³ I must not say what portrait I could draw of you – you wd not care for the best of pencils there!

I have indeed known sorrow & know it, & I crave to know its uses.

Ever dear Florence

Yr's affectionately

Eliz Eastlake

1. Florence Nightingale (1820–1910), pioneering nurse during the Crimean War who established the Nightingale Training School and Home for Nurses at St Thomas's Hospital in 1860. Evidently Elizabeth and Florence Nightingale had been acquainted since 1846. See letter, 14 July 1846.
2. Presumably in response to a letter from Florence Nightingale dated 5

April regarding the possibility of a Lady Superintendent for the Nurses of Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary. See the Auchincloss Florence Nightingale Collection in Augustus Long Health Sciences Library, Columbia HSL Special Collections C-89, Columbia University, New York.

3. See *Una and Her Paupers: The Extraordinary Life of Agnes Elizabeth Jones by her Sister* (Liskeard: Diggory Press, 2005). Jones took charge of the Liverpool Workhouse Infirmary; she contracted typhus and died in 1868.

Letter to John Murray NLS Ms.42176

7 FitzRoy Sqre

18 May 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

On my return from Cannes¹ I have found yr enclosure of Mr. Ruland's letter about Kugler.² I trust that in due time yr renewed edition will supersede all others. I shall be very glad to do my best for that purpose.

For the present, however, I have to request your attention to the subject of Sir Chas MS.S. They may be classified under two heads – philosophical & technical (or professional), & my idea is to attack them respectively to the works by Sir Chas, published by yourself & by Mr. Longman, assigning to you the philosophical writings, & to Mr. Longman the technical.

I am anxious to know how you would be disposed to enter into such as scheme for a publication of a selection of these MSS. I think I understood you to day – when I first returned from Italy – that you would contemplate a reprint of the “Contributions”. Supposing this to be the case, I would suggest an enlarged edition, consisting of the volume as it now stands, & of one or two more. To this series I should be disposed to prefix a short memoir of Sir Chas chiefly founded on letters written during his boyhood & growth to his parents, & to Mr. Harman. You will best judge how far such a scheme of which I give this crude outline be feasible & desirable. A prominent portion of the philosophical pages consists of a fragment omitted “How to observe”. I find from Mr. Bellenden Ker that this was intended as part of a contemplated series of Essays, on different subjects to be undertaken by Mr. Chas Knight, of which only two were published, viz on geology by Sir Henry de la Beche & on travel by Dr. Martineau. The project went no futher. Sir Chas' discourses to the students – already printed – 6 in number – are rather doubtful in classification, whether under

philosophical or technical. At all events, should you desire your reader to look through such MSS as I have set apart as eligible – the greater portion of which I have copied, & which only require the additions of notes, which I shall be ready to supply according to the indications given. I shall be ready to send the to you.

Believe me dear Mr. Murray

Yr's faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

I heard with great concern of the alarm caused to yourself & Mrs Murray by your son's accident. I trust that he is quite recovered now.

1. She had visited Bellenden Ker at Cannes in preparation for her edition of Eastlake's *Contributions*.
2. Carl Ruland, Prince Albert's German librarian at Windsor Castle.

Letter to Florence Nightingale *BL Nightingale Papers*
Vol. LXIII 45,801 f.55

7 FitzRoy Sqre

24. May 1868

Dear Florence Nightingale

A Norfolk lady, a Miss Wright, whom I have mentioned before to Lady Verney, if not to you, has a great wish to join the small band who devote themselves to the sick. But having some experience (I believe in the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital) & havg spent many weeks in the University Hospital here she feels unwilling, while untruly admitting the excellence of the rule, to go through a whole year's training at St. Thomas'. She is anxious to know whether this could be remitted – under the circumstances – & whether she could be admitted for a shorter period than a year. "Long enough (she writes) for Mrs. Wardroper to decide if I am fitted to fill a responsible position I am deeply interested in such work & wd put my whole heart into it".

I give you her own words for I know nothing personally of this lady except that hav.g seen her in the wards of University Hospital where her kind face & benevolent manner much prepossessed me. I wd say that she is about 35 years old. Her testimony of her own experience may be therefore the more safely admitted.¹

I am just returned from Cannes & Mentone where I have been for a month on an errand of duty. It was the season of the highest poetry of

that Nature – the air fragrant with a harvest of orange blossom more than normally profuse. But I am glad of my dull Square again! & of the sad, & un eloquent house!

I hope Miss Wright's petition may not be a desperate one. Believe me ever yr's affectionately

Eliz Eastlake

1. Florence Nightingale's reply dated 25 May agrees that Miss Wright should be given an interview. See the Auchincloss Florence Nightingale Collection in Augustus Long Health Sciences Library, Columbia HSL Special Collections, Columbia University, New York.

Letter to Florence Nightingale *BL Nightingale Papers*
Vol. LXIII 45,801 f.61

7 FitzRoy Sqre

6 June 1868

Dear Florence

I feel sure that the "good words" to wh: you have contributed & wh: have reached me, come from you. You have indeed blown a trumpet in Sion which I trust will call many hesitators to yr ranks. I am so glad & proud that you have spoken in your own name – you never, to my knowledge, spoke more eloquently – inspired by both a general principle & by an individual sorrow. Either one enough to make one cry aloud.

My Miss Wright, whom unseen you put faith in, had been hitherto in Norfolk, but was to come to London as this last week. I have not heard or seen anything of her yet. But in answer to my last she wrote "I do desire during the rest of my life to be a useful worker". May she be fortified in this wish! And may you see more of your travail accomplished. The subject is never forgotten by me where I see any chance of a word in season.

A little woman in Norwich is doing beautiful things – for the tempted & the convalescent, in part continuing Mary Stanley's work. She is a Miss Crosse – she deserves that you shd know her name.

Ever yr's afftly

Eliz Eastlake

Letter to William Boxall *UNC Elizabeth Eastlake*
Letters #11,617

7 FitzRoy Square

22 June 1868

My dear Mr. Boxall

I have a letter from dear old Waagen in which he trusts me to obtain some important information from you, & that soon. He is occupied about a Dictionary of Modern Painters & as B comes early on the list he is anxious to obtain from you the date of your birth(!), an outline of yr education, & a list of yr most important works. You will think this is a bore, but probably you have had to supply a similar little sketch before now, & I trust that you may be able to satisfy the old friend. I came to you Saturday, hoping to obtain it all vivâ voce but you were wisely gone into the country.

Waagen writes very depressed – he is bullied and ill treated by those above him in position, & below him in knowledge.

How glad I am this world is not our Home!

Yr's afftly

Eliz Eastlake

Letter to John Murray *NLS Ms.42176*

7 FitzRoy Square

5 July 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

It appears to me that it would be best to retain the original title chosen by Sir Chas – calling this fresh volume, if it come to be published, “Second Series of Contributions to the Literature of the Fine Arts”.

I hardly understand in what way you would propose to announce such a volume in the Q.R. If by regular advertisement, or by an incidental allusion in some article – in that latter case I should request to see the allusion before it appears, for there are many who will attribute it to my pen.

But I am not yet prepared to accept the proposal of thus announcing the work. I have submitted it, as far as printed, to a few friends whose verdict I have not yet recd. And I should wish for more time before committing myself definitely.

I am preparing further MSS to be printed in this temporary form, so as to obtain opinions upon them, & I will venture to send them to you in a few days.

I think that the printer has taken more pains.
Believe me your's faithfully
Eliz Eastlake

Letter to John Murray *NLS Ms.42176*

7 FitzRoy Sqre
9 July 1868
Dear Mr. Murray

I see no objection to the announcement as you have submitted it to me, merely in yr book list, as it does not bind me either as to time or quantity. I have added a P, before the R.A. as, if Sir Chas' connection with the R. Academy be inserted at all, his real position shd be given. Either let it stand as P.R.A. or omit all designation.

I have no objection, therefore, I repeat, to this little announcement appearg as soon as you please.

Yr's faithfully
Eliz Eastlake

You did not answer my query as to whether Cavalcaselle has proceeded so far with his next vol: that I could in my way profit by his forthcoming account of Ant: da Messina. If this be impossible pray do not trouble yourself to answer.

Letter to William Boxall *UNC Elizabeth Eastlake*
Letters #11,617

7 FitzRoy Sqre
22 July 1868
My dear Mr. Boxall

I know you will be deeply grieved to hear that dear Dr. Waagen is no more!¹ I have just recd the sad tidings through his daughter, who was at Malvern & is now on her way to Berlin. He died at Copenhagen of inflammation of the lungs in the home of the Russian chargé d'affaires. Alas! we can ill afford to spare such as one – I least of all. I had written to him just before he left Berlin. I had always the highest

opinion of him, judgement & integrity & work, & he was – is – deep in my affections.

I was sorry to miss you yesterday. I want you to dine quietly here one day next week – but am kept unsettled as to day.

We are but few left of the old happy party! & shd draw more together.

Ever yr's afftly

Eliz Eastlake

- i. Waagen died during a visit to Copenhagen on 15 July 1868.

Letter to Mrs Sandbach *PCA M/D/SAND/8/336*

Blaise Castle nr Bristol¹

11 September 1868

Dear Mrs. Sandbach

As time has passed on you & Mr. Sandbach have been much on my mind, for owing to circumstances wh: I could not prevent I find my holiday time so shortened that I have no chance of enjoying the pleasure of a visit to you this autumn. Friends to whom I am bound by many ties, & who were to have come to me by the middle of August never arrived (from France) till the end of the month, & did not leave me till last Tuesday. Nor can I mend the matter by extending my 'leave of absence' for Messrs Longman will require me to lose no time in prearing for them, & I have also an auuction in view in November which will take me some time to be ready for. Having therefore friends to visit near London I must make this the farthest point of my travels. I hope you & kind Mr. Sandbach will not quite lose patience with me, but let me look forward to an Easter visit, shd that time suit you, & all be well. By that time I have every reason to think that my Gibson task will have been resumed, for I trust before then to have satisfied Mr Longman & Mr. Murray, & if possible, myself, in what concerns the MSS & other remains of my dear Husband.

I trust therefore to yr kindness to forgive me for what seems a very ungrateful return to all yr kind invitations.

I am here at a very beautiful place,² with a delicate old lady – Mrs Harford. This is my first taste of country air since I returned from Cannes. If you should read the Life of Bunsen, which, knowing him & his family, has interested me deeply, you will find allusion to this place, & to its late excellent owner Mr Harford.

With kindest regards to Mr. Sandbach believe me dear Mrs. Sandbach
Yr's most truly
Eliz Eastlake

1. The home of John Scandrett Harford's widow.
2. Blaise Castle was noted architecturally and had gardens laid out by Humphrey Repton.

Letter to John Murray *NLS Ms.42176*

7 FitzRoy Sqre

8 Octr 1868

Dear Mr. Murray

You will be expectg to hear further regarding the work in question. I am also anxious to tell you that I have now decided to defer the publication which will emanate from your hands until the Spring. The principal cause is that I cannot be ready so soon as you gave me reason to think you wd desire. The preparation of the portion of the 2nd vol: of the "History of the Materials of Art & Painting" for Messrs Longman – with other technical matter which is is proposed to insert in the 2nd vol: has occupied me longer than I expected. I hope however that this work will be published in the course of next month. You will be able to tell me at your leisure for what part of the Spring of 1869 you would wish the Philosophical Essays to be ready.

I trust that your stay in Scotland has been beneficial to Mrs. Murray & all your family.

Believe me yr's faithfully

Eliz Eastlake

Letter to Florence Nightingale *BL Nightingale Papers*
Vol. LXIII 45,801 f.128

7 FitzRoy Sqre

19 October 1868

Dear Florence Nightingale

I am tempted to trouble you again regarding a lady who is anxious to enrol herself under your auspices. I am not acquainted with her, but she is described to me by one of the ladies at the University Hospital as

gratified by nature for nursing work & anxious to learn it. I have sent her your rules & have rec.d in return the assurance that she wd be ready to conform to all but one – viz: that it wd not be in her power to pay the small sum required at St. Thomas' for the board etc. The question is whether in certain cases where means are failing such payment wd be waived. It is a Miss Taylor – a free woman – not very young – living with sister near Seven Oaks.

I grudge giving you the trouble of answer.g this – but I only beg you to send it to those who can answer this question for you. You must attribute my addressing you to my anxiety to encourage volunteers. I have my eye upon another lady, but much younger, who is doing volunteer work at University Hospital – & doing it with a brightness which is a very tonic to her charges. I will secure her for you if I can, for she has no All Saints proclivities.¹

I trust you are less suffering. Pray accept my love & believe me yr's afftly

Eliz Eastlake

1. All Saints Hospital in London had links with an Anglican nursing order, The Society of All Saints of the Poor, established in 1851, which assumed the responsibility for nursing there in 1862. See Susan Mumm (ed.), *All Saints Sisters of the Poor: An Anglican Sisterhood in the Nineteenth Century* (London: The Boydell Press/Church of England Record Society, 2001).

Letter to A. H. Layard NLS Ms.42169

7 FitzRoy Sqre

10 Decr 1868

My Dear Mr. Layard

I must send you a few words not only for my insignificant self, but for the one who would have been so happy to have seen you in the Office you now hold. You are climbing the tree & will go higher still, & I hope you will find sunshine at the top.¹

Your's always truly

Eliz Eastlake

Boxall tells me he shall keep in 3 months longer now! You will not disdain good Tucker's rejoicing at your appointment – you are a hero of his.

1. Layard was appointed a member of the Privy Council and Chief Commissioner of Works in W. E. Gladstone's government.

Letter to William Boxall *UNC Elizabeth Eastlake*
Letters #11,617

7 FitzRoy Square

26 Janry 1869

My dear Mr. Boxall

I find I have omitted to ask you a question from Mr Ker recd in a letter from him a little while ago. Namely "whether a miniature of an officer in uniform by Cosway (R.A.) would be acceptable. It is very finely painted. Webb (late of Bond Street) says it is very fine".

I am writing to him today so that I shall be glad of a line as to what to say. He either means it as a gift or bequest – probably the latter.

This will be left when I send for the Academy petition.

Layard's engagement gives me pleasure. I trust the young lady¹ will be mistress of the situation.

Ever yr's very truly

Eliz Eastlake

Your messenger is just come & gone, before I could catch him to send back this. Many thanks for the signature, I now think that Knight has signed that poor woman's paper before, but he took my word for the case, wh: you have kindly done & safely so. Pray put it all on my shoulders. I wish they have nothing harder to bear!

1. Mary Evelyn Guest (Enid) (1843–1912) married Layard on 9 March 1869.

Letter to John Murray *NLS Ms.42176*

7 FitzRoy Square

27. April 1869

Dear Mr. Murray

I am tempted to intrude upon you again in the matter of Gibson's biography, for a reason which I will explain. You declined it some time last year on the score of my refusing to give my name as the author. But circumstances have changed since then, & I am now willing that it should appear as "Edited by Lady Eastlake". Such being the case I feel it right to give you again the option of publishing it.

Though quite aware that, at best, it can be a matter of very little importance, yet I may add that having completed by far the larger portion of the work I have reason to think that it will be more