

20 rue de la Sorbonne
Paris. 13. 12. 94

My Dear Friend

Your very kind letter
Reached me here & was the
means of cheering me up
considerably. Well, I have taken
your good advice to heart & do
not now feel quite so "paralysed"
& helpless as when I wrote last.
I was so pleased to hear you
are well & happy at Washington
& hope you continue to enjoy
your life there & are not
working too hard. By this time
I daresay you have managed
to take a little holiday. I
hope so, for you must feel in
want of a rest & a visit
home. It has been a great

a pleasure to me to try to do something for you, although I am afraid it has not been done as well as I could wish.

I mean as regards the pictures & photo of Charlotte Corday. I have been in a good many shops, but regret to have to confess that I am a shocking coward when it comes to interviewing the "dealers" here.

Perhaps my manner is not very ingratiating, but anyway I do not find those people at all civil or obliging, & in fact stand very much in awe of them. I am quite ashamed of myself for being so weakminded "mais enfin que voulez-vous"? And really the shop people here are so

rapacious they don't want to^d
do anything for one unless they
see some chance of gain.

Still, I enclose a list
of ^{pictures} those I came across & hope
it is of some use, but I am
not quite sure what sort of
details you exactly want
about the portraits. Please
criticise my efforts severely
so that I may see where I
have fallen short.

I believe the enclosed
list of the works in the library
is a complete one. With
regard to Vatel's book I have
made a good many enquiries
in second hand shops & also
searched the "quais" but have
not been successful in finding
a copy. However I shall still
continue to look out for one.
Could I copy some extracts

from it at the Library - I
should be very pleased to do
so, if it would be of any use.

You must allow me
to do all this for you as
a pleasure + not regard
it as a business transaction.

In the first place I am
afraid it has not been
accomplished in a very
satisfactory manner. Then

my time is really of no value
at present, if I had not done
this work for you, I should
probably have fooled away the
time. I should be very pleased

to look up books in the
Library or make extracts or
translations, but haven't the
faintest idea what such
work is worth. As regards

the searching in old bookshops
 & I am afraid I am not
 suited for that sort of work, &
 I find French shopkeepers very
 formidable, unless one is going
 to make purchases. I am
 easily scared, evidently!

I was delighted to hear
 you may be coming over to Paris
 in spring. What good news! I
 hope nothing will interfere with
 the plan & shall be so glad to
 see you again. I have been
 reading with great interest your
 "Napoleon" articles — they are
 splendid, & your work seems
 to be highly appreciated by
 people well able to judge,
 according to the letters in McClure's
 for December.

As to my doings in Paris,
 well, they don't amount to much.

(5)
I am attending several courses
of lectures at the Sorbonne, &
think I am considerably wiser
than when I arrived here. So
it has not been all lost time.
I like Monsieur Marillier's course
very much. Last Saturday
I dined at his house with
Mr. Steed & other members of
the "course". They were inquiring
affectionately after you.

Mr. Steed has been a
great help to me here, he is so
sensible & practical, & not
what I expected. (Do you
remember our talks at
Cossavella's, Tottenham Court
Road &c &c?)

I am going to try to
summon up courage to write
to Mr. McClure, as you
suggested, & am very grateful

to you for having mentioned
me to him. Not that I expect
to be able to do anything good
enough for him, but I suppose
it is better to try & fail than
never to attempt anything a
little difficult. I often think
of your good advice on the
subject. Still, there is such
a thing as "vaulting ambition"
which comes to a bad end, &
perhaps I ought to stick to
my shorthand, &c. At present
I manage to turn a few "soups"
by acting as secretary to Miss
one two days a week.

It is so annoying - I have
to turn out of this room in a
fortnight, just as I had settled
down for the winter. The old
woman with whom I live is
going to let her flat & has just
given me notice. I think of
taking an unfurnished room

+ furnishing it myself as that
would cost much less in the
end. However I don't know yet
where I shall be, so if you
will please continue to direct
to the above address I shall
find some way of getting the
letter.

I have not heard from
Mr. Hubbard yet. I am not
in any hurry but sometimes
wonder whether the large
engraving of "Napoleon at Jena"
reached him safely. Afterwards
I found out it would have
been safer to have had it
"recommandé".

My very best wishes for
your happiness in 1895! &
my warmest thanks for your
kind encouragement.

Yours very sincerely

Ellas F. Robertson