

20 Dec 1865



My dear Gumbert  
I am most sincerely con-  
-curred to think that any  
injury should accrue  
to you from a transaction  
in which you conduct  
to me has been all I could  
desire.

As regards your business  
with Ruskin, surely he  
would not allow a story to  
weigh with him when you  
told him it was untrue.  
As to any artists who  
may have heard it, they  
will at once give credit to  
your contradiction. As to  
Mr. Mendel, - if his te-



- turning the picture or  
not depends on anything  
but his own <sup>liking for it</sup> ~~price~~, he  
must be but a weak  
refuge. And as for  
poor me, I can assure  
you that, if I find I  
cannot get high prices,  
I shall be as happy as  
ever to take low ones.

Meanwhile, without doubting  
your word for an instant,  
I believe you must <sup>repeatedly</sup>  
find, on enquiry, that  
the story did emanate

from some one where you  
place - how or why I  
cannot imagine. But  
it is impossible to con-  
ceive that a person in

could have told me the story  
so circumstantially, as  
it was reported to me  
unless he had heard it  
so. I am not likely to  
see him at present, but  
am so much concerned  
about the matter that I  
may probably write to  
him in confidence, as I  
did not get the story  
from his own lips, though  
at the same time my

informant did, & was  
beyond all suspicion -

Yours very truly

not depends on anything  
but his own <sup>liking for it</sup> ~~power~~, he  
must be but a weak

Gambart

Dec 20

Brook

1865