

P.S. By the way, I might explain that only one man is there and a picture of a portrait of him is my old buyer.

21 Oct: 77

Heme Bay
Painting

My dear Shields

On thinking over
the point of perhaps
offering the little pic-
ture to Mr Turner
(it is now gone to
Dea, but I know
he will not buy.)
it strikes me strongly
that he ^(surely) did take
a strong fancy to
this particular
head, - that he
wrote you after seeing
it, asking if you

known its price, - that
you asked me, - that
I told you 500 g.
(which was what I
always meant to
ask if I parted with
it,) & that he thought
it over his mark.
If it was so, what
I say will probably
recall the matter to
you: I certainly
think it did occur.
However there wd
in that case be a
difficulty in offering
it to him now at
a lower price (though
my long illness compels

me to an unwilling
willingness to take
the 300,) and the question
if offered to him,
at all, would be
best alluded to by
me in some way.
When I return his
water colour.

I have finished a
chalk head of my
dieter, which I think
so successful that
I am going to do
another of my brother
before I leave here,
as the one I did
does not now satisfy
me.

So to the eternal

dear, my dear Shields -
if I suffer at times
from morbidity, it is
also possible ^{for others} to take
a morbid view of the
question. I am quite
certain that I have,
as an artist ~~should~~
made solid progress
in the merit of my
work, such as it is
and this chiefly within
the last 5 years, during
which I have supplied
by application some
serious qualities which
had always been
deficient in my prac-
tise, & produced,

I will venture to say,
at least a dozen works
(among those covering
the time) which are
unquestionably the
best I ever did. ~~There~~
In those ~~only~~ which ~~will~~ need deep
study, ~~and~~ ^{will it be found.} ~~to be~~ charac-
-terised. Some are
among the brightest I ever
produced, - as
"La Bella Muro,"
"The Sea-Spell," &
I may add (for lightness
rather than brightness)
The "Roman Widow."
The only picture indeed
which of all really
tends to darkness

is the "Aotarte": and
I remember that on
the only occasion when
you saw this by day-
-light, you quite
exclaimed as to its
brightness & fulness
of colour when pro-
-perly seen. To reduce
the drug as far as
propriety admits
is most desirable
(at present it is
reduced to less than
a third of what I
started with here;) but if an opinion
were to get abroad
that my works were

subject to a derogatory
influence which tended
their beauty & value,
it wd be most injurious
to me, & would in
reality be founded
on a foregone conclusion
as to the necessary
results of such a
medicine, and not
on anything really
provable from the
work itself.

I now find that I
have written more
than enough in a
vein which I hope
does not seem too
egotistical.
I expect Brown here

again before I leave,
Now that he has
finished & dispatched
his picture, - doubtless
now as fine as it
promised to be when
I saw it. It is sure
to add his name
I suppose I shall not
be leaving much before
the end of this month
but I think certainly
not later.

My mother & sister
write in kindest
regards, & I am ever

Affectionately yours

D. D. Reppitt