

7, 1878

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Dear Mr. Turner

On further thinking over the
bearings of the case as
to the exhibition, and
more especially as to the
public object in view,
(One of the greatest
importance & all inter-
-ested in Art) I
feel that, while they
are making every effort
in their power to aid
it, I have no right
to withhold any small
~~sum of money~~ ~~to~~ help which
~~I am told may be to~~
~~my power~~ I
privilege of help which
I am told may depend
on ~~my~~ decision of mine.

The difficulty as to the
Lawrence Gallery, & my
undertaking as to next
exhibiting elsewhere this
year, is a real one;
but my answer to any
question on the point
would be the special
nature & serious per-
-formance of your exhibition.

Another difficulty, which
I presume to most incur
in meeting you with,
is the almost certainty
of ~~the~~ giving rise to further ^{steps}
applications of the same
kind from other friends
owning my work. In these
cases also the cause in
view ought to afford
sufficient explanation.

I wd not however wish
to exhibit at present more
than the one picture -
the Persepolis, as being
less of a manifesto &
precedent.

A remaining difficulty
is for your consideration
My works ^{I know} are ~~not~~ ^{the}
~~only ones which~~ ^{apt to} suffer
~~from~~ ^{from} ~~the~~ uncon-
-genial exhibition light
& the proximity of hitting
greatly at variance
with them. They ^{do} are my
alone in this respect:
I have seen Splendid
works by George Watts
~~and others~~ ^{and others} ~~with~~
shown to disadvantage
~~and~~ under alien
conditions. Do you

feel equal to the looking
of much disparaging &
even contemptuous
criticism ^{on} of the work
to which you have
given your suffrage?
I never look at press
notices, but you, as
a Committee man
will be in the thick
of it all & I ~~cannot~~
I should naturally
~~would~~
regret ~~that~~ ~~any~~ ~~unpleasant~~
~~impression~~ that you
~~would~~ ~~should~~ receive
any altered impression
which I ~~cannot~~ ^{could not but} view
as in some degree
artificial & extraneous
to the real qualities
of my work.