

Church Hill

Birmingham-on-sea.

July 25. 1883.

Dear Mr. Shields

My Mother joins me in thanking you for the warm reception you accord to her wish, and bids me explain the 100 is not necessarily the extreme limit of her offering. Less she does not propose, - something more she is quite willing for.

Mr. Seddon was here the other afternoon, seemed to think her window quite feasible, and promised himself to write to



you: so I hope all will be made accurate and intelligible. The window in question consists of 2 lights only: its companion window equally of 2 lights would be abandoned entire to friends and admirers who of course would please themselves as ^{the} what artists should be called in: but my Mother's window she wishes (if so it may be) to secure exclusively from yourself. We wonder how you will devise a design which can at all express the man and the work: I am quite unable

to think of anything nearer than the inadmissible combination of 2 incongruous figures, St. Luke and the Archangel Gabriel! A quite different treatment of our dear subject had occurred to me, and had for the moment approved itself to my Mother: a Raising of the Widow of Nain's Son. We considered that as Baptism is "a death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness" an instance of Resurrection might be viewed as typically appropriate to a Baptistry; while Gabriel

(tho' not an only son) was a beloved, loving, conspicuous son of a widow, who cherishes among her dearest hopes that of receiving him back at the general Resurrection by the overflowing mercy of God. But I tell you this so freely because you always invite confidence, — not because you need prompting, or we are wedded to our own idea!

Now I hope the Duke and Duchess will see your glorious works with even half our eyes, and will feel that what you have done for them is a monument

of genius and devotion not ratable
by a money standard. Tho' I am
glad to think that in one sense
these works will follow you, I
am secondarily glad to reflect
that they will be left behind for
posterity.

We hope Mrs Shields will yet
get better, and brighten your hearth
and home again. Our love to her,
please? I wonder whether
Birchington would suit her: it
is coldish at present, yet we
— who in age might more than
be her Grandmother and mother!
— are revived in this fine air.
Welcome will you be on

Monday, or Tuesday, or any other
day. We dine at 2 and would have
tea at any hour to suit you; but
we would not grudge you twice
entertainment at Dilkoosha
or the Vicarage, if such were to
offer. And never make excuses
for not calling, please! It
is a friendly favour when you
drop in, it is no omission when
you forbear.

Very truly yours

Christina G. Poppette.

