

I had promised to design the cover of
"Time Flies" but fell so ill at the time - ?
I could not I think 1886 -

30 Torrington Square - London - W.C.
April 22. [1885]

Dear Mr. Shields

We are so sorry, my Mother
and I, to know that you are ill
and suffering, - for we have just
seen your kind and considerate
letter to the S.P.C.K. But I
will not forego associating you
in some degree with my book,
for I am sure you will give
me pleasure by accepting a
copy when I hope the cover

will seem to you not amiss
as a humble substitute. I
who have just been shown
the design think it not
at all displeasing, and as I
am quite incapable of figuring
to myself what I have
missed I may rest contented.

I hope "June Flies" will interest
you more rather than less,
because on 2 of the days
you will recognise thoughts
of your own: you threw light

on the Cleanings of the Temple
one evening, this furnishes the
substance of one paper; and
another owes its origin to
your vivid description of
certain wayside spiders at
Birchington. Mr. McClure
tells me the book is to come
out on May 1st, so I hope
it will not be very long before
I offer you your copy.

Always your obliged friend
Christina G. Rossetti.

Aunt Eliza adds this P.S.
to say how sorry she is to hear
of your illness.

