

30 Torrington Square — W.C.  
Friday.

Dear Mr. Shields

I am laying myself out to be disagreeable! Perhaps you guess on what subject.

The "Skipsey" civil list pension. Do you know, pondering the matter I cannot make up my mind that there is cause shown sufficient. Here is a man of vigorous endowments mental and bodily, able as appears to earn his own



livelihood in noble independence,  
but changing from one  
career because (presumably,  
and I admit it) below his gifts,  
and from another because  
of a distasteful superior  
and perhaps because of long  
hours. I think "in this our  
realm" there must be "five  
hundred better than he" as to  
genuine claim. So, with your  
toleration, I recant my promise  
to sign: and I cheerfully hope  
that my signing or not  
signing will not influence

the result.

Pray still think charitably  
of me as not hereby proved  
uncharitable, and let me  
remain as ever

Very truly yours  
Christina G. Rossetti.



K U  
23C, 6:14  
MSS.