

30 Torrington Square — W.C.  
October 4.

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Dear Mr Shields

The paragraph in a recent  
Athenaeum which announces your  
forthcoming window upbuilds our  
hope of seeing that beautiful work.

My Mother salutes you with true  
friendship and — begging your  
excuse if we violate artistic  
etiquette — desires me to ask  
whether this is the moment for  
offering you a "retainer"? — either  
50£ or 100£ as you shall dictate.  
If you will favour her with a prompt