

Bank House

May 21 1894

My Dear Ashcroft Noble

We are in the horrors of removal to a new house and are camping out as it were on the 'Green' but I cannot resist sending you a line of thanks for your charming letter which helped us this distressful morning.

The books to which I have read standing on one leg before the fire (diagram) thus. I am a pupil of Mr A Beardsley's only I am also original for I always draw in simple straight lines. I am coming up to take the drawing rooms by storm with a new art on these principles.

Well, your letter did us good. I must only thank you now. No more time have I. I shall tell you about the books afterwards. I have read quite a lot standing up thus like a good sleep, but more when I can cut and read.

Yes, to believe is a good thing. Barrie is a staunch believer –Maarten Maarten also – Stevenson is become so, and likes to talk on the subject. Lang has a curious undercurrent of it. There is more about than one fancies. Several of the most advanced young men in London, shyly spoke to me on the subject when there, half-ashamed, yet eager to () of a man for whom they had some respect yet believed.

I liked Lionel Johnson () I liked his modest, clear, sane, gracious utterances. I wish you would tell him so. Often I read nothing else in the Academy. Indeed I stopped the paper a while when he was not writing much. I wish I had seen more of him – and may again if the Fates favour.

And you wrote the Examiner Notice. It was about the only sane and seeing notice we had – save from R.L.Stevenson whose friendship it won for me. I thank you for it. It has always been a friendly hand you have stretched out to me. I have some Dulce Cor in sheets and when I get them bound you shall have one. Otherwise it is getting very scarce. Remind me if I don't send you a Raiders. I am going down to Galloway for ten days to wander in the wilds where no man comes

Ever your

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