

to mention their intention, & hope it w<sup>d</sup> not in-  
convenience me. — ~~I am of that~~ And therefore  
I should feel especially obliged if you will look  
over the bill — Unluckily we have just parted  
with it — <sup>a fortnight</sup> ~~3 weeks~~ ago! as it had been lent to us  
for perusal — but I will write today & ask the par-  
ties to send it to you — & you will oblige me by  
considering yourself professionally engaged & receiving  
the customary "honorarium" — I cannot think, with  
all your busy life, of troubling you so much for no-  
thing — & it would be every way more satisfactory to  
me — & I should then cite it (if <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ my favour) as  
regular Counsel's opinion that I had obtained.

I see I did not say all I meant, on the  
1<sup>st</sup> page — It was, that should I assume, according  
to your advice, that there had been a mistake,  
I sh<sup>d</sup> receive a reply, that they had been well  
advised before they did it — & that w<sup>d</sup> rather

stop my mouth, or drive me to ~~the~~ seek an opinion  
in opposition, not to what their agent had done, but  
to what they had asserted to justify it — & that I  
need not say w<sup>d</sup> make me look more "cantankerous"  
& less neighborly — which I particularly wish to  
avoid. It is disagreeable enough without it. —

I rather think Mr. Allen has so entirely left  
the matter to the Timber Valuer that he is not  
responsible for the incivility — & I do not wish  
to think him so — But Penoyre must know  
all about it.

Now for a more pleasant subject. We are quite  
disengaged here till 4 Feb — & my wife when  
our house will be filling with nieces &c. — My  
wife sends her kind love & hopes you will come —  
as soon as you can. —  
We have not seen you for an age & three quarters —  
& I sh<sup>d</sup> be so glad of some tremendous talks —  
No one to speak to here, except slot timber, game  
balls, paupers — de de — et hoc genus omnes.  
You will quite refresh us. —