

Cheltenham, 12 Rodney Terrace, 6 Jan. 1880.

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My dearest Arthur,

Here your old friend is, laid by the heels - making progress I thank God the right way - but of course very slowly, with a foot covered with open sores. Dr Evans considered it a most severe case - & at my age, of course recovery would be in proportion slow. The change hitherto has been pleasant: we propose returning home on Friday.

I had it from a private hand - well-informed I believe - that poor Frank had 4 black balls - & that as it is the proportional & not the actual number that decides the election, it would be quite easy to overbalance these, by securing a sufficient no. of white ones - for my informant says very few in comparison will trouble their heads about voting - unless told of it.

I rather wish to know the number (approx) of Gabe's Neb<sup>s</sup> - Did not D'Arrest write expressly about them? I have borrowed so many books (& have them still) from the Council that I don't like to ask for another - but it would answer the purpose if any kind friend would just see how many he (D'Arrest) made of them - what David Hume used to call the "tottle of the whole." —