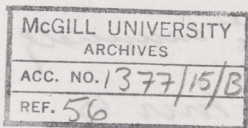


Westminster Palace Hotel
London. Jan 22. 93



My dear Walter,

I have to acknowledge
several letters from you or
Foster, the last being a long one
of yours received yesterday
& dated the 9th.

I am happy to say that the
main work of week has
somewhat relaxed now, & for
a few days I hope to have
a little spare time for general
purposes. I don't know yet
when I shall be able to return,
but must stay at least till
some time in February, though
possibly not longer than the
middle of the month.

I am glad that both you & Foster

find something to say in
 favour of the autobiographical
 sketch, & will take an early
 opportunity of replying to Fettes'
 letter on the subject - in which
 he discusses the wisdom of
 so doing.

Last week I dined on Wednesday
 at the Goldsmiths Hall, in the
 City, as a guest of Sir R.
 Webster, who is one of the
 boarders of the Company. I
 had never before been at one of
 the Company dinners & I can
 assure you it was a most
 elaborate affair. The Goldsmiths
 have a magnificent building,
 which faces on a narrow lane
 but is quite palatial within -
 marble of various kinds everywhere

& splendid talks. The
 dinner began at the unusually
 early & old fashioned hour of
 6 & everyone was away about
 10.30. There were about 150 diners
 & the variety & number of
 the courses was quite spalling.
 Everything of the best procurable
 & cooked & served to perfection.
 Grace was sung by a lot of
 chorister boys & afterwards
 there were some part songs by
 the same boys, very well done.
 There came in between speeches
 which were few & not long, being
 mainly replies to the ordinary
 toasts. It seems that the
 Goldsmiths Company is not
 merely armaments, for it has

some responsibilities in connection
 with testing the assays for
 copper & with hall marks
 for gold & silver etc. It has dis-
 cretely founded & endowed a
 technical school at New Road,
 which is already fully attended
 & seems to be filling a want.
 Instruction is given in handicraft
 of all kinds, not only in such
 branches as might be supposed to
 come properly under Goldsmiths.

Yours
 George