

976/24/3

Clare

8, GERALD ROAD,
EATON SQUARE.

Dec^r - 1st - 99 -

I send "Times"
I will very
good account,
wh. I hope you
re commd.

My dear Anna,
Many thanks

for your letter of
Nov: 16th -

On Sunday night,
Nov: 19th, I rec^d a telegram
from Mr. Atkin, giving
substance of cable
rec^d by him, & at once

2, cabled to Mother ^{the}.

To me it was,

of course, not altogether

a surprise, as I c^d not

but see during the month

~~passed with him that~~

he was failing rapidly -

To Mother it must have

been a terrible shock.

However much, & however

long, one may expect

such a calamity, - it is

inevitably new &
unrespected
when it comes -

She has, as she knows, my
most sincere & loving
sympathy! I trust
that her 5^{th} confidence in
the future, & her life-long
trust, may now stand
her in good stead -

She 5^{th} certainly not
be left alone, & as you

seem to suggest, Clara
on her return, w^d be
an excellent companion
& help for the present
at least. No one c^d be
more cheerful, quiet,
domestic, & at the same
time business like & effective.

I send this line in reply
to yours of Nov-16th; as yet
I have had no later news,

With all affectionate good
wishes, as always,

Yours affectionately,
Rankine