

The Peabury.

St Albans.

Hertfordshire.

Sept 16/65

My dear Mamma,

I had written to Martley to ask for a pass of self and Luesy to Canterbury from Monday Saturday to Monday, but instead of the pass I got a letter from his secretary saying Mr Martley was out of town, so the pass was not forthcoming;

I wanted to get out of London for the Sunday if possible, and Luesy and I settled on this place, it is 20 miles from London and we came down the first 10 to Barnet by rail and walked from that.

It was nearly dark when we got in
so we have not seen much of the
place; it is mainly remarkable for a
large and ancient abbey.

I called on Mr Thomas at
Turners yesterday - he said if
I was willing to undertake the entire
charge of and responsibility of the
surveying and levelling of 10 or 12
miles of line for Parliamentary work
that Mr Turner would employ me,
adding that the work would be certainly
opposed - i. e. gone over by opponents
to try and find out mistakes.

I did not at all like the idea of
undertaking this work, the responsi-
- bility being so great and the time
for which I should be employed
being so short - a month at the
outside, with no prospect of being
kept on Turners staff.

I wrote to Mr F. ^{asking} if he thought
I should be justified in accepting
this work - my own impressions being
against undertaking it. I send his
reply which you may as well return to
~~my~~ me - of course I shall act on
it and not take the work, which
really is work only to be undertaken

by an experienced surveyor. It is
strange, however, if one has any im-
-ductions, how ready people are to
take on at ^{his} their own estimate of
themselves himself.

At any rate I have no intention
of taking anything but what I feel
capable for.

Your affectionate son
Francis E. Prudergast