

13 Rutland St N. W.

Oct. 6/66

My dear Mamma,

Yesterday I went down to Chatham and spent the afternoon with Notcutt; he took me over their works (making new docks) and afterwards I dined with him.

Their work is easy, easy hours and certain pay, but any out door work they have is among the convicts and they ~~see~~ work in an office from the windows of which the convicts and their warders with loaded guns can be seen.

However Notcutt seems to like his berth well enough and if he likes to remain in it, is sure of gradual small, but certain increase of pay and if he stays long enough, a pension.

I saw Barry, who wanted me to take the entire work and charge of "getting up" 10 miles of line through a difficult country and which is sure to be opposed. he says.

I would not take the sole responsibility at all and don't much fancy parliamentary work for

Barry under any circumstances. Charley and Dora are in town, they are to leave for Cannes on the 17.<sup>th</sup> J. F. has just got a new pupil! His name is Strickland and he has been as a ~~former~~ pupil for three years at Maudslays and Field's large engine works and now takes to civil engineering as the mechanical offers so little inducements! In about three years more he <sup>will</sup> probably have the same opinion of civil engineering. Yesterday morning I met

Hill, a cousin of Kidding's, who is an architect and he says that business is entirely overdone! It is the old story, each thinks his particular line is the worst chance.

Same damp gloomy weather still continues. Love to all

Your affectionate son

Francis B. Prendergast.