Charlton Stone
17th Feb 1896.

My dear Mr. Bleeker,

It was very good of you to give me the first <u>outside</u> letter this year - I am always glad to hear from you, & like my friends of other days much the best -

I really am glad to hear you are not going to sell "Charlton Stone" at present, one hears so many reports - I understand Sturgis would like it, then he would build cottages on the vacant ground - Keep the waiters sets in I must have the roof looked to, as there are three leakages, one in the large room, one in

the blue rooms, and no doubt the rest of the rooms need the servants. I guess also have some plastering done.

It will be time enough when you have your belongings with you, and all unpacked, when the time comes let me know, and anything I can do, shall be attended to, to the best of my ability.

I think you would be pleased to see how well your furniture still looks, I have taken as much care of it as I could, some of the chairs are the worse for wear, but things belonging to you, I have put into the rooms of careful people. It is very good of you to let me continue to use them, as sales are so very low that price will be paid for anything

When you do come out, most likely I will take over most of the furniture if you care to sell. I always feel I can never repay you for all your kindness to me during the last nine years. I don't know what I should have done, or how I could have managed had it not been for your kindly help.

We did indeed have an anxious "New Year," not knowing what might happen. I sent you a paper with a full account which I hope you received, I thought it would explain more than I could write. It is a mercy we had a man like Chamberlain at the head of affairs, and if Prussia does side England everyone thinks, matters will right themselves, and Johannesburg

will be in a more healthy state, there will be many reforms. George watched the letter of "Dom-Pedro", he says every drop of blood in his body tingled. We are not sorry to hear the joyful tidings married, without consulting us. A Miss Dora Hepburn, from all I hear she is a nice girl, I have not met her. George has left the service, and gone into an Attorney's Office in "Krugersdorp", they have taken a small cottage. I truly hope he may get on and do well, and be very happy. Play is stiff with me, it is hard work for her to get work, until her affairs are settled, from letter Lulu is a drawback in going to travel, and I doubt therefore it would be well for her to be parted from them.

he is not a strong child, and very much attached to his Mother
I do hope Edith has got rid of her cold ere this, I dont like colds hanging about too long. Harry had a severe cough the whole winter & for the last four months has been under the Doctor, now he is looking better but still very thin and pale and he will have to be careful
My Rheumatism is a little better but still there, in my right hand I have rubbed it with different liniments, but will try your remedy.
Fanny Helena remembers you very well, I suppose in Mamma, and has a way of going about things. Edith & Ella are very busy bees. Ethel can do anything, if she is inclined to.
Tom I hope to have Dick & Eddie

Photos taken for them Galton and I will send you a copy they are such dear little things and so fond of each other, both musical, Edie sings second treble, I often wonder if their mother can see & hear them.

Ella expects an addition next month, I shall be glad when she is well again.

My home is quite full again for which I am thankful.

I receive your insurance receipt today the bill for the Brompton rates come, it is £18.10 - and the tenants rate £4.10, I don't think it is just, but you must let me pay £8 a month now instead of £7.6.8 -

It is late, so I will say good night -

Kindest remembrances to your girls & fond love to family.

Yrs Sincerely

H. B. Wright.