

With love to  
Mother - believe  
me ~~very~~ dear  
Father  
Your affectionate  
son,  
John King



Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

Dear Father,  
Your note of  
date Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> reached me  
last night. As you  
already know from  
previous letters, I shall  
not be able to be with  
you at Christmas, as I  
need hardly say I should  
much like to be, but I hope  
to see you all again in  
Spring -

Ruefuee

2/ Let me sincerely congratulate

gratulate you on entering  
your 69<sup>th</sup> year in health and  
vigour. You certainly have  
cause for thankfulness in  
having escaped to so large  
a degree the ill that  
humanity is heir to. My  
profession would indeed  
be in a hopeless state of  
imperviousness if the majority  
of men troubled it as little  
as you have had occasion  
to do.

I cordially agree with you

With love to

that you have earned,  
as few men have earned,  
a well deserved respite  
from further onerous work,  
and shall willingly fall in  
with any plan you may  
have to obtain this. I go  
even farther: I think old  
Mr Gladstone's career is a solemn  
warning to us all, showing  
how easy it may be to spoil  
a whole life's work by allowing  
chains of habit to bind one  
down too long or too  
irrevocably - Then you have,  
which many men have  
not, much of interest and use-

fulness outside of College work.  
If you really think of retiring  
I would willingly live with  
you once more, either in Mont<sup>l</sup>  
or near London (or elsewhere)  
and could undertake to be  
in a position to share all  
expenses in a very short  
time. This is quite practicable  
& I mean it.

Meanwhile I shall be busy  
with professional work during  
the next four or five months,  
and shall not write often or  
much, but I trust this will not  
prevent your dropping me a  
line whenever and as often  
as you can -