

Royal College of Music

Nov. 30. 1885

Dear Madame Goldschmidt,

My surprise at receiving your note of this morning was equalled by my distress at its contents. I was well aware how much you felt your labours, and how at various ^{times} they have affected your health; and you had not concealed from me the possibility of your ceasing your active services for the College at the end of the first three years. But I was not prepared for so sudden and absolute a termination, nor for the allusion to the cause of it in the latter part of the note. I have now seen Lord Charles Bruce, and learn from him the reasons which have actuated you in this step. And I find long deep regret — and forgive me if I say my astonishment — that it is due to action or non-action on my part, which you have interpreted as an intentional slight towards you. Lord Charles has fully explained to me the light in which you look on my neglect to consult you as to the distribution of the parts of

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, Kensington Gore, S.W.

Mrs Lane

Edith Goldschmidt

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S.W.



the Water Carriers. My letter of the 11th was
intended to consult you, though I now see that
the use of the word "propos" has, ~~to~~ to my
great sorrow, given you an opposite impression.
The meaning of my too exact expression was
"There are two ~~superior~~ parts in the Opera; I
"and the Conductors think that the inferior
"one will be well filled by the Student who did
"so well in Figaro: do you agree to this? and
"which scholar will you kindly name for the
"superior part of Constance?" I think that
that meaning resides in my words, and that
they may legitimately be so interpreted. At
least such was my intention in them. In
your reply you acquiesced in my request so
far as to name Bolcher for Constance -
expressed annoyance at not having been
consulted about Figaro in July, and at ~~your~~ pupils
having been left out in the cold - but gave
me no hint of your indignation at the
proposed cast. Had I detected that
feeling in your note, do you think that I
should not at once have expressed my
great sorrow, and have immediately proposed
a meeting between you, Stanford, Viottis,

and myself, to settle the cart before Mr. Kendal
began his instructions. ? Most certainly I
shoud. You know me well, and you
know the earnest and unremitting desire
which has animated me throughout our con-
nection to do every thing in strict accordance
with your wishes - to save you trouble in
any way - ~~and~~ to give the College the full
& inestimable benefit of its connection with
so illustrious an Artist as yourself - and
to repay the confidence which you have ex-
hibited in me, and the close, and many
almost say, affectionate, friendship with
which you have honoured me since we be-
came Colleagues here - I do feel it
hard that such devotion should be so
severely and suddenly visited for an
unintentional slip on the part of an
unhappened and over busy man, in an
ill-arranged and inconvenient house -
indeed, but for the devotion ~~which~~ with which
your friendship animates me, I think that I
might have reason myself to complain of
your course towards me.

With regard to the Water Carrier, I feel

that it is now too late to alter, and I can only most sincerely ask your pardon for having unintentionally hurt you, and thus brought on myself a greater annoyance than I have inflicted on you. It will be a salutary lesson to me and I promise to profit by it in the future.

With regard to the other subjects of which Lord Charles told me, it has not been my practice to keep copies of my letters to you, and therefore I have hardly any before to, and my memory is treacherous; but (1.) I feel confident that I did definitely write to you, shortly after the beginning of the Term ^{to the effect}, that I had arranged that your lessons were in future to be half an hour long instead of twenty minutes. The letter must have miscarried. I obtained Lord Charles's permission for the change, directly after my return to Oke from Weymouth. It was all settled with Mr Watson before your return, and my mind was quite at rest about it. The fees will be made out on the basis of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour lessons.

(2.) William. The moment I received

your complaint about the Pronunciation I called in Signor Perini, and enjoined on him to pay strict attention to it, and to put pronunciation before grammar in his instruction to your Scholars, and to go through the words of their songs carefully with them.

(3.) Mrs. Kandal wishes to give all her attention to the preparation of the Water Carriers, and thus therefore transferred your Scholars, excepting Miss Belchell, to Mrs. Sterling and asked her to give strict attention to their Elocution:—

I called on you just after doing all this. I do not remember that these subjects were mentioned, but I take it for granted that you would have mentioned them had they been on your mind.

(4.) The department troubles me owing to the want of a proper room. But I think that I can get Mr. Southern to take the class at his own house in Rutland Gate which will solve the difficulty; and this I will try to arrange at once.

And now I return to the subject of your letter
with which I began. Do not give me the pain
of contemplating your separation from us as
an inevitable thing, and as being hastened
by anything that I myself have done or not
done. Think not only of my annoyance, but
of the much more serious evil which the College will
suffer in losing you - of the irreparable loss
~~which the College will suffer in losing you~~ to
the girls in having this splendid and unique
Education cut off prematurely, and of the injury
to music in England by the sudden termination
of an experiment which has been hitherto so
successful, and so full of a promise unknown
to the country before. I am quite ready
to suppose that you have good ground for
'your action', and that I have wounded &
annoyed you (though I repeat emphatically
with no possible intention). But do not, I
conjure you, persevere in a step which I
feel sure you will deeply regret when the
immediate annoyance is over - a step
which can never be retraced, which is fraught
with damage to the best of which you are so
brilliant an ornament, and which I am

ready to avoirt by any means in my power.
Pray you will be so kind to return the letter to
me.

I am, dear Mad^{rs} Goldschmidt,

Yours very sincerely

George Jones. [Grove]

Malone

and Goldschmidt