

16/13

Paignton Devon

May 30. 94

My dear Fitzgerald. I didn't know you were thinking of one of the eminent electrician's funny remarks. It was a shot on his part, on ~~spec.~~. But I do not mind the eminent a bit now that he is no longer able to sit upon me and suppress me as he used to, though it is quite possible that my temporary <sup>asymptomatic</sup> ~~asymptomatic~~ <sup>may have him at the bottom of it.</sup> I rather like to see him in his true colours, which he is sometimes <sup>wise</sup> enough to display, <sup>unwise</sup> that is, if he meant to keep up his character of the genial Mr — the eminent electrician. Now there is another eminent electrician; he of Oxford st. There is a remarkable likeness between them, & I always couple them. Both are clever men of the world and managers of other people, and money makers, and both are quacks, and smart, and impudent. Just after Lord K. had given evidence against the eminent electrician's belt, the eminent electrician prominently advertised in the papers and magazines what had the appearance of being a recommendation of his belt from Lord K. Now the other eminent electrician is just the same!

The em. elec. has somewhat come down in the ele. world, of late years, of wh. he was such an ornament. But I find that they are all still very much afraid of him. They may call him all sorts of names behind his back; but he is too influential, pulls too many strings, and can do too much harm to people in secret ways, for them to quarrel with him. A fellow might lose a contract worth hundreds of pounds, or thousands, through not keeping on the right side of the eminent. How he manages with the Papers, I don't know exactly, but it is certain that ~~most~~ <sup>four</sup> of them are, or have been, his apologists and boot cleaners; though things are not so bad as they used to be, when it was <sup>strictly</sup> forbidden to make any reference to him whatever, (presumably unfavorable, of course!)

Yours sincerely  
Oliver Harriside