

May 1st 1903.

10, Portsdown Road,
Maida Hill, W.

My dear Partridge

We - I mean my sister & I - had the old dress out this morning & were glad to find its condition not quite so bad as we expected. When it came into my possession - years ago - we were told that it had been disgracefully neglected & knocked about in Private Theatricals - Charades, & such-like merry games - with the inevitable consequences

so it was - of course - sent at once to be cleaned, & my sister's dressmaker put a new back to the skirt to match the original which was altogether past praying for. The "Bodice" - somehow - seems to be missing - but the "Hoops" & "Corsets" will. I venture to think - inspire you - & especially Mr. Partridge - with all the wonder & admira-
tion which such real - & certainly - rare "curiosities" demand; at all events I hope the dress may be of some use to you - in which case - pray keep it as long

as ever you like & welcome;
indeed - I am sure you would
make a charming thing of
it - & I think you will allow
that it possesses some very
"fetching" qualities - pictorially.

Please tell Mr. Partridge -
with my "respectful duty" -
that I have been - for weeks
past, anxiously waiting for
the weather to settle so that
I might have the chance of
driving over to Chelsea some
afternoon, with that long-
promised drawing under
my arm, and a contrite
heart, hoping for ^{the} approval

and forgiveness which an
aching conscience invariably
receives; and with ^(as always?) kindest
regards to both - I remain

Ever sincerely yours
John Tenniel.

This is wrote to be ready
for your messenger tomorrow,
early?