A Burne-Jones Letter

Editor's Note: The following handwritten – and undated – letter from Burne-Jones was found by Peter Faulkner amongst the John Marshall Papers at Exeter University Library. Peter believes it is unpublished. He has kindly supplied the following notes on John Marshall.

John Marshall (1818-1891) was a distinguished surgeon and Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy from 1873 onwards. One of Rossetti’s physicians, he is described by Fiona MacCarthy in William Morris: A Life for Our Time as ‘a Pre-Raphaelite aficionado’. I am grateful to the University Librarian for permission to reproduce the letter here in the Burne-Jones centenary year.

The Grange
– Fulham

My dear Marshall,

What a friendly and pleasant greeting from you but you have written to a broken down old man who goes out never now if he can help it – indeed it’s true – I can bear no more the heat of rooms and burning of gas lights – & the dazzle of beauty only torments and derides me

literally I go nowhere but if I could go I would to you – for I feel touched by such friendly remembrance – look! if on that night an unwonted fire lights up my poor embers I will make my appearance – but if I dont come, it means really a true plea of fatigue – my days are increasingly busy and by ten every night I betake me to such sleep as waits me – dost thou see? So anyway if I come or needs cannot I am

Yours very sincerely.

E B-J