

prevented from accompanying Sir George Grey, on whose Staff I was for several years, to New Zealand, according to his wish. I am at present waiting here for an appointment promised me, which can not, however, be conferred upon me before the end of the parliamentary season, which is now close at hand.

You will kindly accept herewith the first part of a work which I have undertaken

I believe you will concur with me in advising her not to expose herself (debilitate as she at present is) to two rough voyages in a small coasting steamer, and to have in addition the unavoidable excitement of personal leave-taking. Otherwise we should, of course, think it best and nicest that she should proceed at once to Natal, and I fetch her thence (if I could possibly manage to do so) and receive her from the hands

hands of her father.

It will be a source of sincere regret to us both that under these circumstances, you yourself will, I believe, not think this latter course a wise one. But although this may not be, - you can yet make us most happy by sending us your paternal blessing on our union, whenever and wherever it may take place. I need not tell you that in the delicate state of

health

health, in which Femina is, nothing would perhaps be more conducive to her final recovery than to have a few loving words from you regarding the solemn step which she wishes to take with your consent.

Regarding my own outward position, it seems to me desirable to tell you that through my then very weak state of health (which, I am glad to say, is latterly greatly improved), I was prevented