all events they were not his equals as workmen. Yes the shutters must need washing & readily.

Of course you will not wait to write to me again in answer to this before settling what to do, for then the right season would be past.

I will send £50 or £60 to your Kind care & next mail or the one following that, & will ask you to keep from the rent what may be necessary to make up the amount.

Yes it is a heavy expense, but it is one that has to be faced — & the dearest way of all is to neglect painting et cet at the right moment I am glad that it comes upon us now rather than later in the year, so that we see clearly where we are while the year is young, & also because April is one of our "poor" quarters.

I feel so sorry dear friend for the extra trouble & thought & fear seeing after all this for me must cause you, but I do not know how to help it; & I am deeply grateful for your Kindness in giving me this great & invaluable assistance.

Yours L. S. B.

P S If I have any afterthoughts I will write next week —

Extracts from answer to Mr Bright of Jany 30th

Thankyou much for reminding me about the needed repainting of Chelton House. Our thoughts had met, for I was just going to write & ask you if you would be so very kind as to make enquiries as to who would be the best man to entrust it to so as to have it done in February or March, we had it painted

The first time old Hare did it for us, it had three coats all over, being in a very bad state: this was in 75 directly after we moved into it.

Then some years later Bullen people gave the weather side or all all events the gable end one or two coats for me, & then before my dear Sisters left they had part of it repainted — I think & took.

I know Mr Sorby can work well if he likes. We gave him up after finding him very unreliable — Some things down there instead of being mended (for which he had charged & been paid) were found tied together or bandaged up with bits of old sacking. at Chelton House

And on one occasion in the old house

where he did the repairs for Mr Brown
ger, I had occasion to speak to him about
one thing he had done in a superficial
& unworkmanlike manner (so that it
wd need repairing again very soon) he
had to admit it, but said "Oh it didn't
matter, it would come out of Mr
Brougers' pocket not ours"!
Then again when Sir Thomas employd
him to repair the fence between
their ground & ours, Mr Lorly deliberately
put up the wire fence about 2 feet
inside our ground, so as to make it
to the gum trees (ours!) & save
himself putting in posts. Dear old
Sir Thomas was blind & cd not see it
& it had been left to him..
I get it removed later & the right will
place at my own expense. but this just
shews you the kind of unscrupulous fellow
he is.

I do not like in any way to tie your hands as to whom you employ to do it — when you are so very kind as to undertake the trouble of it for me, but I think it best you should know the above. I believe in repeating there are two things to guard especially against being cheated in. One is the quality of the paint used (I think they are tempted to skimp the lead in it wh makes it weatherland the weather) & another is the number of coats — i.e. unless each coat be different in color, they can easily say any given panel has already had its 2nd or 3rd coat, without such being the case.

I suppose now Butler & Hane are dead there is no reliable carpenter or builder in Hadley who will do a thing & see after his own workpeople & the materials they use? Henry Butler's brother did not impress me favorably I remember — at