

Cambridge. 10th May. 1864.

My dear Sir

I heartily wish that your suggestion to Mr. Acton to make a Concordance to Dante might be carried out, but I am sorry to say that I am not able at present to assist materially in the work. The depreciation of our currency has so enhanced the cost of living that those of us who are dependent on fixed incomes are obliged to diminish our expenses & to practise a pretty strict economy. This is the more required of us, because of the frequent demands for contributions to objects of national importance, & of the increase in taxation. I am therefore unable to undertake the payment of Mr. Acton's work, glad as I should be under other circumstances to do so. If he should be able & inclined to prosecute his work at his own risk, I will with pleasure do everything in my power to secure its success in this country. I have little doubt that an