

#12

Ann Croft.
Sturford. m. Ann.

Prinll

Dear Sir,

I thank you most
heartily for your kind letter,
and I beg you to also thank
the Mayor for his hospitable
and friendly suggestion, but
I am compelled to refuse all
this present welcome, for
the following reasons — which
perhaps you will think eccentric!
but more wild! —

I have a way
of going about my work very
earnestly — and the subject
I have chosen for my address

is one in which I feel very
strongly. But, you must
remember that it is the
first time I have ever made
an address at all to the
members of a Literary Institute!
I am not an 'old stager' —
and I feel my responsibility.
Hence, I must have the
few hours preceding my
address, quite to myself.
I could not drive — I could
not chat with any friends,
no matter how brief and
cheerful! — Though I shall be
glad to shake hands with
any of them, after my work
is done.

So I think I will carry
out my first idea — go to —

the Grand Hotel, Birmingham
and get them to provide me
with a bronchus and a fast
pair - and so I shall do
the drive easily in an hour.

All the same, please do
not think me childish! - I
am quite the reverse of that.

But I wish to fulfil my
tasks well - and cannot

do so, if I have any sort
of friendly distraction or
"night" first! -

All I shall want
on the platform is a small
table on which I can lean
a hand easily - and a
pen - any sort of pen!

Not a great high desk, or
writing apparatus - just a

small ordinary square table,
with a dark red cloth on
it - or any colour, provided it
is not a glaring blue or green! -
You can put a vase of flowers
on said table if you like -
and I think, a glass of
water, in case of a 'catch'
in my throat. That's all!
I hope to be able to fill
up an hour with what I
have to say. Will you
kindly name a seat somewhere
in the audience for my friend
Miss Dyer? (not quite in the
front, please!) -

With remost thanks, believe
me,
Sincerely yours

March 14. 1900. Marie Corelli.