

to come over. Perhaps if we be spared
to see the summer once more you may
be tempted to come in the warm long
days. Sir William Pitt's monument is
a masterpiece by Christmas & would
be an ornament to any Cathedral.

L23W

Stratfieldsay Rectory
Mortimer, Berks.
Jan 4. 1899

Dear Sir

I thank you for your letter &
the interest that you take in the
Monuments. At once on the receipt
of it I went to Reading to see Messrs
Wheeler who have great experience in
church work of all sorts. Their
foreman has been over today

There are two of the shields & a
bit of drapery loose in George Pitt's
Monument & a piece of marble
not very large which has been broken
away by an iron clamp & will need
replacing.

On the larger one there seems to
be no settlement of any amount

The top is very unsafe & must be taken down & reset but that can be done with two ladders & planks without putting up a scaffold. Sir William Pitt following the example of his illustrious sovereign seems to be losing his head. But it is evidently a piece put on; it can be replaced. The same is true of a crack in the wrist & a bit quite loose out of Lady Pitts drapery. One small bit I regret to say has been lost but it is not visible from below

I also suggested that the Monuments should be thoroughly cleaned but I did not care about having fresh gilding or reblacking W & Pitts inscription.

I do not think it will be a very expensive business there is very little new material wanted & the work would not take much over 6 days

to carry out.

I have no doubt that in a few days time I shall have an estimate which I will send to you.

We think very highly here of our Monuments. The Church has the reputation of being the ugliest in Hampshire, but its monuments & the beautiful pitch pine ceiling put on by the late Duke are its redeeming features

As soon as I have your permission to begin we will get the work in hand, the sooner the better as the top of the big monument really is not safe & might come down at any time

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Horace J. Mowbray.

I am sorry you are not well enough