

(L88)

4, Grosvenor Gardens.

S.W.

March 22nd 1883

My Dear Hogg.

I am sorry to hear that owing to some misunderstanding you have been put to the trouble of getting my son elected for the Carlton. I knew nothing of his name having been put up and my son himself was quite taken by surprise, not having calculated on your active political influence getting him elected so soon. He and I are entirely of one mind in regard to politics. Parties and principles have been so shuffled of late that it is difficult to decide which party to belong to and men of moderate opinions may find themselves on opposite sides whilst

holding the same views. The Conservative party is disorganised at present, and if moderate Councils prevail with the present government I think a good Liberal may do more towards opposing Radicalism and Socialism by supporting them than by joining the opposition. Moreover in Dorsetshire I do not think that any Conservative is likely to put up who could successfully oppose Mr Portman's son if an election took place now. If the Government will only let us alone and allow us to manage our own affairs instead of interfering with their Grandmotherly Legislation we

should be disposed to use any County influence we may have in their support, but if the same kind of legislation were to be introduced in England that has been pursued in Ireland we should at once join the Conservative ranks. You will see from this that Alex. is not prepared to join the Carlton at present at the same time I may thank you for having interested yourself on his behalf which I am sure which has been done as much from a friendly feeling as from a wish to recruit your own party.

Yours sincerely