Sir Francis Fletcher Vane, Bart., of Hutton, Little Hickmans, Fordcombe, near Tumbridge Wells.

Deer Sir Francis Fletcher Vane.

I am very much disturbed to receive your letter enclosing that of John, which I now return. Have I made a mistake in thinking the sketch is not mine? I hope not, and yet I would rather have made a mistake then think that John, to whom I also was kind when I met him in Venice, was dishonest. I took him with me for three weeks in the mountains and gave him some lessons and helped him in other ways. I can only say that he impressed me as an honourable man, and I would real terrible to do him an injustice. Will you please, therefore, come up an soon as you are able, and let me have the pleasure of making your acquaintance, and bring the sketch with you so that I may look at it again.

It happened that just last Sunday I was steying with a niece of mine, Mrs. Blandy, who possesses the original picture of that same subject, which I offered for a charity and which she purchased. It would be interesting to compare the two.

Let me know when you can come up, and give us the pleasure of lunching here or come to tem, just as convenient to you, and if possible let me know a few days beforehand.

I am also interested in what you tell me of your experiences of war. If only there had been some humanity at the time when the Peace Treaty was drawn up, so many subsequent calamities and much distress /

distress at the present time would have been averted.

Hoping to make your acquaintance soon, and with kind regards,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Eir Francis Fletcher Vane, Bart., of Button.

1.12.32.