

Quai d'Orléans, 6,
Paris.

6th February 1861.

Wednesday,

My Dear Mrs Stakefield,

Your kindness commands my
obedience. I cheerfully accept
your dinner (for Saturday at 6.)
and very gladly such as you describe

it — in the true lodginghouse style,
~~such arrangements as~~ that is, the style of
~~it reminding one of one's home,~~
home
which grows stronger & stronger
upon us,

in proportion as man ~~grows~~
~~grows~~! ~~grows~~ — older. —

And, why so? — Ah! the philosophers
^{tell it you}
~~explain it~~. They say, that in every
thing such is the end as was the
beginning, and they prove it by
adding that, for instance, the Ro=
man Empire began with a Ro=
mulus and ended with an Emperor
of the same name. The Byzantine
Empire likewise began with a

Constantine, and ended with a
 Constantine) ^{also} & so on.

Hence I take it that the use
 of fire distinguishing man from
 the brute from the ^{very outset} ~~very~~ ^{beginning} ~~creation~~ of the world,

the love of fire is the last love
 of man, ~~and~~ ^{but love of make sense} therefore do
 gladly ~~do~~ accept your
 fireside dinner. to which you so
 kindly invite me

My most respectful compli-
 ments to Miss Wakefield.

and Believers

Ever with true yours

Leonard Wick

~~of fire distinguishing them from
the best from the rest~~

~~the love of fire in the last world
of man, and therefore to be~~

~~gladly accept your
further dinner to which we desire~~

~~My most respectful regards
to your mother and family~~