38, BERKELEY SQUARE.
W.

My dear Sir Hall Caine,

(1) You are doubtful in your letter whether I should have mentioned Pitt's financial difficulties, as one of the causes for his breaking off with his Eden, on the ground that -

"a man knows always if his financial position is so hopeless that the chances of his life cannot possibly retrieve it."

I decline to stress more especially in his case of Pitt."
It is evident to whoever reads Pitt's life that he never paid the slightest attention to his private affairs, until forced to do so by the actual pressure of bailiffs, he probably had a vague idea that he was running into debt, but probably did not realise till he came to survey the position with a crew to marry, how desperate her care was and how impossible for him to make any sort of settlement.

(2.) how did he pay much attention to his health. But in a survey of the position that could not be eschewed. I maintain that when he came to realise, probably from some incident, how far he had gone with Mrs. Eden, he found it necessary to stop short and review the position from all points.

(3.) I have, as you truly
say, we off lord Auckland very
casly. No demand for the
Prince seal speaks for itself.
But in these matters one cannot
speak very openly. There is
still a bearer of his name,
and there are many closely
connected with him, one of
them being the descendant— who
left me the letters. Still, Brd,
reading between the lines, you
will see that I hint that the
prospect of a connection
with no unreserved a politician
May
may have been one of the causes which deterred Pitt from marrying the daughter.

But, removing all these causes, the general principle that I hold with regard to marriage extends much beyond the case of Pitt. For I hold that if either party to a marriage entertain before hand any rational doubt of its success, they had better
withdraw at the Church door
under such circumstances than
attempt to carry it out. The
world would consider justly the
person who thus broke off the
marriage, but it would be
infinitely wiser and most
credible than undertaking
a life-long journey under doubtful
auspices.

Believe me,

most sincerely,