But I would plead for the erection of this porch — not so much even on any of these important grounds, as because it would be the first example in modern English architecture of the real power and right place of the commemoration statue. ~~It is to contain a group of portrait statues of great naturalists — that I would I chiefly desire to see this porch built~~

We seem never to know at present when to put such statues. In the midst of the blighted trees of desolate squares; or — at the crossings of confused sheets ~~when you are~~ ~~only at the risk of life you turn~~ ~~you eyes from the~~ ~~on the crossing~~ ~~which of cabs — for an instant~~ ~~you eyes~~ ~~but at the risk of being run over the next instant~~ — or standing on the pinnacles of pillars, ~~seventy feet high~~ — or riding over the tops of triumphal arches. — or blocking up the aisles of cathedrals. — in none of these positions — I think — does the portrait statue answer its purpose — ~~no would any man of merit or power think it a reward to him to have his statue so placed~~ It may be a questionable whether the erection of such statues is honourable to the erectors. but assuredly, it is not honour to the men whom it pretends to commemorate. ~~by encumbering a crossing or disfiguring an arch, with~~ nor is it anywise ~~and it is a poor little~~ matter of consolation to ~~hope for~~ a man who has deserved well of his country, to reflect ~~hope~~ that ~~one day~~ his effigy may one day ~~cause a collision of cabs at a crossing; or~~ encumber a street crossing — or disfigure a park gate. But there is no man of worth or heart who would not feel it a high and precisely ~~[illegible]~~ reward ~~to him~~. that his statue should be placed when it might — remind the youth of England of what had been exemplary in his life or useful in his labours; and might be ~~[illegible]~~ regarded with no empty ~~[illegible]~~ — no ~~[illegible]~~ pointless ~~[illegible]~~ but with, the emulative ~~purposeful~~ ~~and~~ eager unstatutable ~~honour~~ which ~~of youth pays to~~ passionateness of honour which youth pays to the dead leaders of the cause it loves, ~~or dead~~ or discoverers of the light by which it lives.

A Page of the MS. of the Second Letter on "The Oxford Museum" (§ 22)