A letter from <u>Barbara Ann Cooper</u>, formerly <u>Hastings</u>, (1818-1903) to her son <u>Philip Cooper</u> (1847-1929) written on the date of his taking over the management of the family ink business from his father <u>David Cooper</u> (1803-1885). Photos reproduced here by kind permission of Henry Underhill.

Pyne House Etc. Etc. Jany 1 - 1883

My ever & very dear Son,

What an eventful day
this is for you. The beginning of
not only a New Year but the
stepping into your father's shoes
& the taking upon yourself many
responsibilities. I feel I want
to say a few words of them & to
thank you also for all you have
done for your father, myself &
your sisters. You have always
been our comfort & support & God
help you for it & give you wisdom
& strength to enable you to
carry out all your desire for
the improvement of the business

& the good of your family. -You will not enter upon your new position I am sure without earnest prayer to our Heavenly Father, to help the work of your hands & then in His Strength you cannot fail. It is only when we trust in our own that we do not succeed. - Try to get men around you who will work from the best of motives & your factory will soon be quite a different place, as I hope to hear it is, if I do not see it, some day. - The element employed have many of them been so unsatisMy com to day dear low.

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factory of late. You will have far less worry & trouble, when

some changes have been made & you have people you can trust.
We shall still want your help in many ways, I fear, & we shall always feel a deep interest in all you do. If God be for it, who can be against it.
To His care I commit you & with earnest prayer for His Blessing.

Believe Me

Your loving and devoted Mother

Don't be over anxious like me.

