

that some of it as explained in your last letter
sounded painfully to me at first - but then as I
say that was not a fair trial - now reading it
quietly when quite at peace & in connection
with your first letter - it seems different -
Some little things I don't quite agree with - &
one big one - I don't know if I can put it
into words - It's something about prayer - It seems to
me as if the more high & difficult a right we
try for the more we want help, I won't say from
above as that's a mere term - but from our Maker -
From God in short, by whatever name we
term him - from the thing that is higher & better
than us - for I suppose tho you speak against
idolatrious ideas & all yet we must believe
if only from his works that he is great.
It seems to me as if we were all such poor
weak creatures & so ready in need of help - & through
that it will want some ^{thing} referring it all to God however
shortly & simply it will be done - just some earnest
even tho it were only tacit reference of all the work
of such a union to Him for help & guidance -
For I can't help feeling & believing that he does
- with help - tho personally finding it very hard
to get at - but this is thro my own fault I am
sure - I know you will not laugh at
me for saying all this to you - It is a part
of the subject we never much touched on in

conversations - one thing was I felt too shy about
it - but it's always easier to speak on paper I
think - at least it is to me - of subjects that lie rather
deep down - There's too comfortable feeling that
papers can't laugh at you for saying it - & also that
if the reader thinks why you won't be there to
see him - but if you don't mind I want to hear
your ideas about it - if you should have time
to tell them to me - My mind has been & is still
in a very fluctuating state on most of these kind
of points - Coming into the midst of those who
believe as I once used - & still more seeing ^{some} such
different clergy men to all those I've been used
to in Africa - seeing some in short who do honor
to the ideas they follow - & really try to act up to them -
yet in a loving liberal spirit - all this & much
more has rather ^{and} settled my late disbelief in some
things or rather perhaps has just raised all the
question, again in my mind - & I much wish to
know ^{and} ^{try} all them tho without out quite
the health or head to read much on those subjects -
also finding ^{about} ^{very} unfavorable to such studies
And more than most things I want to know
about the Bible - how far above or as of it is
true, or can be proved so - Tuesday 20th I fancy the
season may partly be a above but also from
the tendency of our minds when they've been led on
driven by circumstances at all from one extreme
of the pendulum to the other to gradually vibrate back
again to ^{some} more central points - But I should
like very much to know what is true or false about
these things - I am looking anxiously to next
week's mail for letter from home & you -
Thank you again for the kind confidence you

showed me in tally of your possible destinations &c. It seems to me very painful to be associated with one whom you can't like or respect in great things I mean - But I suppose this must always be more or less the case in this world. Still it is a painful & revolting necessity - I have changed my mind all writing to Mrs. Hill - for the week after the last mail went I suffered so much pain & weakness in my spine owing I believe chiefly to too much writing the previous one, that I'm resolutely trying to curtail all my writing as much as possible. Therefore shall not add even one unnecessarily to my ^{already} numerous correspondents - It is not as if Mrs. Hill in any way needed or could be helped or comforted by me - I feel she has her husband & good-caring for her as he does - is that is plenty - much as I should like personally to hear how she is poor little thing - However I gave the address to Mrs. Hill asking her to take Mrs. Hill why I didn't write if she herself should like to make use of it - but she intends not doing so as Mrs. Hill has her address - can use it if she wishes - I think just because she likes her so much better than I did - she feels proportionable abeyance of interest in the panacea perhaps this will be - I do as you understand my abbreviations? I know I am apt to shorten all I care to say, write - but they may be rather unintelligible to you in another than your native language as I know they somewhat puzzle my very high friends at times - The day after my last letter to you I left Matlock for Stone, a small town in this my native County this is a part of it I had never seen before - to stay with the Mother & sister of my Father's present wife - After a week there we all three came here to spend a week with some my old friends, farmers, who live quite in the country - about 4 miles from the parish which my Father lived in for more than 20 years & where we were all born - the first 11 years of my life were passed - You can fancy how dear all the places & people associated with my poor Mother & of - towards.

recd. 18 Oct 61
answ. 22 Oct 61

BC 151 C8.5
Whitley Caves
W. Eccleshall
Staffordshire
Aug^r 19 1861

My dear D. Bleth

I was thinking much of you yesterday, (my first Sunday near my old home) & reading what you say on theological subjects again - the first time that I feel really & faintly to have read that part of your letter - as hurrying through it is also the pleasure & excitement of first reception - the wish to get quickly to know all respecting how you are & when going &c it is not quite the frame of mind in which to approach these difficult subjects - I wonder what you were doing yesterday - I could scold you for that "if you have not forgotten to write to me" for I think you deserve it - only knowing a little of the idle promises & feeble friendships there are in this world even in my small experience of it; I feel you may have had still more cause to be unbelieving in that way. But I won't be - only ask you not to pain me ~~by such writings~~ again in this way - I could read all your letter with ease - more I fear than you will be able to say for my last - written as it was when not well & in tremendous haste - I like the spirit of all your plan for a religious union very much - I wish our

BL 151 CB.5

I reopen this to say I've just found
the card you sent it had stuck in
the envelope - to thank you too for
the 3^d paper wh has just arrived with
you best letter - J.H.

welcome letter - Thank you very much for it -
I think the delay was caused by your omitting to
put Kensington in the address of letter for
the paper reached me yesterday all right - There is
one thing I have to scold you for dear Dr Black
it is that you do not say how you are - but I think
now news is meant for good news this time -
Only I wd rather have the certainty of it -
I only wonder though how you found time
to write to me at all, so busy as you must
have been - It was very good of you -
I'm very glad you'd been staying at Government
House - it must be so pleasant to be close to what
you are doing & independent of the weather -
I shall much long for next mail to know your
final decision about things - I'm so glad our
Bishop had asked you like that - How much
he seems to be coming out now - I mean in
point of liberal opinions - Louis told me a
few things all him in that way which make
me very glad - I especially admire his acting thus
after what the set of English Bishops have
lately joined in doing - I too much wish for some
things you could go to Natal - but I feel you wish
know & do best all that - Thank you much
for telling me of these friends of yours in England -
I shall be indeed glad should Father throw me in
the way of meeting with any of them - Don't talk in
that way all it be stupid to tell me of them -
Even should I have no chance of seeing any of them,
still I like to hear about any thing or person that in-
terests you - I have had the pleasure of finding
one friend with somewhat congenial views
on these matters - It is Mr Woolley with whom
I told you in my last letter I had just been staying -
the father of the one in Natal that dear Louis was
engaged to - He is an old clergyman - strange to
say - I never expected or hoped for it there - but
to my surprise in corresponding with him since

my visit find this to be the case -
He has left off doing duty for several years I do
not know for what reason - He was very deaf
& I rather shy & we were very little alone together
so this suits for by not hurrying it till now, too
late for much communication on the subject,
as our principles I now write as few & short
letters as possible - I think your comparison of
what shall I call it, allegory rather it seems, about
the present established religion very good & true -
Sadly true indeed - Oh what will be the end of
it all - I almost long to get back to Natal out
of it all for this reason alone - I so fear, besides
moral coward that I am, not being true & straight
out there - things - I do find it so very difficult in
the middle of such bigotry joined as it is often to
such very real goodness in people I so respect
& like, - when it wd be so painful to shock -
- yet I feel almost dishonest in not doing it -
It's a great people altogether to me & at times a
very painful one - I am most agreeably sur-
prised to find you can read my writing so easily
for I fear it gets worse & worse - You see I can
sit up long at a time with impunity so the
pastor I dare write to anyone, & consequently the
worse, the more I can say of all I want - so this
is why you get such accounts dear Dr Black - It is
only to those to whom I am able to write that I can
afford to do it well - I can read your writing quite
well so please never think of how you do it -
I feel I can't at all thank you as I would for what
you so kindly say my dear friend - but I do very much
indeed - & if I write to & consider you to be what you
so kindly offer if it were not for this inability to
write much would tell you of all things like you
ask - I have already told you how I have been & am
- & am feeling still a little better & stronger
since being here - I am staying at the Squire's house
of my native place - he & his wife who were always
my true friends to my own dear mother are both
dead - but 6 of their daughters still live at this their
old home - have asked me to stay with them when

A house with the pretty but girls in it is so
pleasant to me - so free - & reminds me much
of our dear little home in Natick. I mean by
all just sisters together as these Miss Burnes
are - Dr. Russell's report is very favorable he
seems quite satisfied with the progress - I like
him & his advice very much indeed -

I was very sorry to learn from Mr. Helena have not
come to hand as beside those to you & Louis I wrote
one to which I have not repeated since - so should
more regret its non arrival at its destination.
But it's dinner time so I must lock up my paper.

— go down stairs - so Goodbye for just now -
Sunday morning Sept 1st Poor Mrs. Lyell - so late
her - I think I told you Dr. Russell advised me
not to think of leaving England till next
April at earliest -

I am so glad all your home news was good with
the exception of the postscript of your letter
wedding - I don't quite know what to say in answer
to your question about long engagements - I think
it so entirely depends on the circumstances that lead to
them as well as on the idea of fulfilling it of those
concerned - I think it must need very strong & well
confidence on both sides (but then of course
(that is only what the termination of a long engagement to)
degree perhaps - But I never can understand or sym-
pathize with those cases in books in which fathers
mother's disapprovals of & in short ~~prevent~~ allow
of an engagement because circumstances con-
fide it to be a long one - If any one's love & talents
& worth are sufficient for them to be entrusted with
the happiness of a lifetime - surely they must be
able to stand such a test as that - I think the mean-
time either should find out that they cannot & do not
love & trust the other quite best & as they ought - why surely
it must be far happier for both that the decision
should be made then than afterwards when it will
be too late - But here I am moralizing away all these
things when I ought to be writing to dear Louis - so enough of
them - but I have seen so much wrong & misery & blighted
lives & characters result from unhappy or to say the least
ill-considered marriages that it is a subject that perhaps runs

with all our childish days - are to me - at least
the associations are - & how much I care to see
them all again - Tomorrow I leave this to stay
with a family in our old parish & so hope to have
ample opportunity to see all my old friends & hang
there - They have asked me to spend some time with them
& I've several more invitations in this country -
already so perhaps may be in it this time two
months - unless any of my mother's family should
wish me to return to the South among them
for any good reason - but I hope this may not
be - I am beginning to feel really better again - very
much so indeed - the ~~other~~ ^{other} so far from - strong that I find
I must be very careful at any over fatigue & etc -
I've heard people talk of one "Nature Air" as so
beneficial & am inclined to believe in it a little and
for certainty this part of Staffordshire seems to
me different to any other place, as to air, I mean
of course the many & great pleasures too which
the sight of dear old faces & their loving welcome
have given me - must have a great deal to do with
the good effect of this visit - But pain in my back
warns me to close so goodbye for today my friends
Aug^r 31st Loughton Hall, Gwobury - Staffordshire -

I have this morning had the joy of recd your letter
of the 19th to 22nd July my dear kind friend - What a pleasure
it was I came at it at once - & the greater from its coming
when I sorrowfully given up all hope of hearing from
you by the mail just arrived - it made up my mind to
wait as patiently as I could until the next - conclud-
ing from the paper you kindly sent me for to be sure
thanksgiving alone yesterday, that you must have
been too busy to write this mail - & tho' sorely disappoint-
ed at not hearing yet I felt very glad that you should have
had sufficient confidence that I'd quite un-
derstand your silence & accordg to our compact you
remember if too much engaged, as I thought you to
these Government changes you very likely not be, to write
conveniently - for see your directions on the paper
act of mind at ease as to your being able there & I trusted
well - & now today all my endeavours to be good
all it have been happily rendered needless by you

which your Father wrote, about the bible I mean
- if there is any translation of any of them
I've just been reading some articles in the
Cornhill Magazine which interested me much
I dare say you may have seen them as it is ^{the} last
years numbers that I've met with them.
They are entitled "Wrote this last" - by J. R. who
I believe means Ruskin - & in the number
from Augst to November inclusive -

And some tells me of a very interesting paper upon
the Bishops Proceedings in this Epse & Keble
case in the ^{this} ~~Tracer~~ ^{Tracer} for last April - have you
seen that?

along with me rather when I begin to write
or speak about it - you know it seems to me
that if people would & could get to see & do quite
right about that that all the other evils in
the world would pretty soon get mended -

If homes were only once what they ought to be - what I suppose God meant them for - & how can we hope or expect that, until their foundations are differently thought of - laid?

[illegible]

Oh will you tell me once more what were the words