

to show you how thoroughly it is want not
of inclination but time power or opportunity
that both has often & I fear often may again
make my letters to you so short - If only there
was some faster way - if we inscribe our
mind on the paper by writing it, which by
down or any how - would you rec^d let
us from me - I think so long as to make my
hold - Well think of that possible result
absolutely me a little to the certainty of never
being able to put it to the test - For I don't think
in our lives there will be an invention
of this kind - tho I sh^d be much surprised
if there is in some future century -
Before answering your dear letter I sh^d like to tell you
what I've been doing lately - for fear think of those
larger ideas sh^d disable me from talk of these
trifling ones after wards - I last wrote to
you on Oct 4th from a farm house in Stafford
shire where I'd been spending nearly 3 weeks
with some very old friends - My host had once
been a servant of my father's & a very tried &
faithful one & friend too for many years - &
his wife, school mistress of our native village.
They have since got on in the world & turned
farmers - you can perhaps fancy with what
pride & pleasure I accepted their kind & most
heartily invitation - & stayed with those I sh^d know
thoroughly like & respect & who I so know
& loved my dear mother & been trusted & valued
by her - Nothing could exceed the love & kindness
shown me there - & you know pleasant that
is - & I had many minor ones - such as the sim-
ple county life - the study of character & socie-
ty that was with them - & all their nice
& very simply educated children was - They had

3 daughters abt my age & younger - & we were
great friends - It was so curious to me to see
the way life & things looked to all of them - who
unexpected it at first hand as it were - with
out their ideas having been previously made
or trained by much book knowledge -
sometimes I felt almost inclined to envy their
simple faith & absence of all puzzles - I'd
a good deal of quiet there - being much alone &
lying down - & my head having got to much stronger
I suppose it began to think again all the more
to make up for lost time - & so I was a good
deal puzzled one way & another - the more so
from having to keep it all to myself - as I sh^d
for a great deal have in the least disturbed
their simple happy lives by my puzzles -
even tho the relief of just saying them out
to any one - even if they cannot help go
with or out of them is in itself often
such a help - & half shows you the solution
I had been feeling & being too a good deal better
but just as last mail went it cold some
how in face & head & was in much pain
from it for a few days, wh made me quite
weak & poorly again & delayed my next visit
However I soon got over it & have since been
getting stronger - better than ever I was before
~~daily~~ weekly if not daily - & I now am
very much better stronger than I've felt
for some years - I dare say this bracing weather
will have some share in it - but I feel sure
it cannot be all mere apparent in-
provement - Do you know I think you
w^d hardly know me I've become so stout
& strong looking - I know you'd be glad to hear
all this so don't apologise for so much seeming
egotism - One of my father's sisters with
whom I'd been staying in Cheshire in July last
happened to pay a visit to my kind friends
at Loughton just there - the Miss Burrows
I mean - whom I doubtless mentioned in my Sept
letter to you -

& they wrote her to see me at the 'Gorse' (the Vernon farm where I was staying) - It was pleasant to see her mind face & doubly so to be able to hear from her news of my youngest Aunt on my father's side - the one I think I mentioned more particularly to you in 4 Augth letter as being one of the most delightful women I've ever known - She has very bad health so can seldom write to me - when she does is very scanty in never mentioning her self - so it was a real comfort to be able to get a little news of her - Well - they asked to see to come & spend the next day at Loughton to see a little more of Aunt Mary Anne & promised to forward me to my next destination from their house - So the next day I did so leaving my dear kind friends at the Gorse & spent a very pleasant day - 1/2 at Loughton - It was so pleasant to go back to the house where I'd been staying a month so shortly before - It felt quite homelike & nothing could exceed all their kindness to me - My face was nearly well a gain by this time - Next day I left them for my next visit which was to a Miss Morris who lives abt a mile from Loughton - also at a farm house - I'd known her as a child - I mean when I was one - This was Oct 10th - I spent a pleasant week there - liking Miss Morris much & finding all kind & pleasant to me - there were several tea parties in my honor - The opportunity they gave me of watching this kind of society was interesting & the study of character too - I had also a good deal of saying goodbye to old friends & neighbors in case I have to leave England without going into Staffordshire again - By the bye while there I read an interesting article on Phlegm again in the Cornhill - the Sept or Oct number I suppose - It's a subject that's great interest in the human body with all it - On the 18th I left Blake House for my next visit - It was to the same place I spent a week before & before going to Loughton & whence I began my Adieu letter to you - A Miss Bentley & her two brothers were my hosts - I liked my week there much - they were very kind - & the eldest Mr Bentley is such

Bromyard - Worcester - Nov^r 4th 1881 - Monday.

My very dear Friend -

BC 151 C.8.7

Thank you very much for your welcome letter rec^d last Saturday - began 16th Sept - I thank you much for all your kind understanding & counsel about my writing sometimes such short meagre letters to you - compared to what I wish - It is a real comfort to feel you so understand about it all - Never fear to try my patience by too long a letter - I speak the honest truth in saying that the longer talk I thus have with you - I mean the longer your side of it is, the greater is the pleasure & happiness each mail brings me - so please dear friend always write all - as much as you wish & believe that in so doing you are causing me very great & true pleasure - For now I know so well the principle on which you write & can therefore feel sure it was no forced exertion on your part (tho' from I may know ledge of you, & also what I'd so begged you, I quite trusted it was so before) - it will be almost an unalloyed pleasure - I do like writing to you very much & think each mail will bring you even longer letters than those you fear may trouble me - did not a very numerous English correspondence besides the long letter I felt so owing each month to dear Louie, take up nearly all the time I can get for writing during my constant change of place & friends - except especially being obliged to stick take care & not write much in one day - Except indeed just at mail times when I allow myself to be a little imprudent in that line I quite trust now tho' to your kindness & understanding about it all - & only tell you all this

But however is the nearest railway station.
But Mr Wolley with whom I told you I stayed
at Beeston in Nottinghamshire in July last - &
of whose anti church way of believing I spoke to
you in my last letter. He met me at Birm-
ingham at 1/2 past one - so we came the rest
of the way to gether - & our long dark drive
was not unwelcome from the quiet peace-
ful time it gave us for speaking on those
subjects wh^{ch} shock people generally -
It was a pleasure to hear another person
say he did not believe in eternal punishment
& other things wh^{ch} I can't either - & more es-
pecially one who has been a clergy man must
have met with many at least of the evidences
on the ch^{rch} side of the question - He was
speaking much of Theodore Parker an Amer-
ican - lately dead I fancy - whose works
he had liked - & also told me many interesting
things abt that clergy man at Liverpool or
Manchester who has shocked people so by
his liberal notions - also abt the writers
of essays & reviews - I've not yet had a
chance of reading the latter - It is Mr
Wolley's eldest daughter with whom
I'm now staying - he is here too - Her
husband is a clergy man who still be-
lieves earnestly I believe in the old paths
But he is a very sensible man & rather
unbigoted too I fancy - so I hope to have
some talk with him on those sub-
jects while here - there is if he sh^d
have time & trouble to spare for me

I sh^d be very glad to hear all that is
to be said on his side of the question
wh^{ch} I've never fairly done - Especially
as lately I've not quite known what
to think or believe on many points &
sh^d like to give my doubts an airing
so as to confirm them one way or another
Do you know what I mean - Perhaps
being a man & sensible & with access to
all the clever German writings on these
subjects you have never felt the want
so I hardly understand it - But when
you know it's been a great one lately
& gives one that puzzled unhappy feeling
one has when torn 2 ways abt any thing (I've
been pulled a dozen ways here - I mean on these
subjects) I know you will be glad for me
at this opportunity of resolving it some-
how & I wd faintly hope rightly - You will
perhaps wonder at or think of such a
thing but the other night I was talking
to Susan (Mrs Bricketts) abt things not theo-
logical ones tho - & the conversation
somehow turned in such a way that
I was obliged by honesty to say I did not
think like people generally - It so happens
she has a great friend who is a Unitarian
or something of the kind. wh^{ch} I suppose made
her think & be more interested to know
what I th^{ought} abt things - so this is how it
came all that I spoke a little of them &
she said sh^d I mind speaking to her husband -
This is the very thing I've been wishing for, tho
never meant to do it because of giving trou-
ble

besides not worthy to shock those I liked.
However I am glad it happened thus &
think when the mail is gone we may
have some talk - I did not like to say
much to her fear to unsettle her simple
happy belief all things but shall mind
with him for its his both duty & pro-
fession to meet & grapple with doubt
if he can - I shall hope to tell you of it
- any result it may lead me to next
mail - I believe I spend a fortnight
here - we will bring it to the 13th so -
when I hope to go to London to spend a
few days with Mrs. Fisher in lodgings
shd her mother's house be full - in order
to see Dr. Russell. do some commission
for Natal before going to Brighton wh
I suppose may be my next abode -
I know nothing yet for certain about my
future movements - I mean as to how
soon it will be right & wise for me
to think of returning to Natal - If I should
have time ^{to do so} all my Staffordshire friends
have kindly begged me to visit them
again before leaving England - which is pleas-
ant. I shall have great pleasure in doing
for I liked them all in their different
ways very much & shall always feel
loving gratitude towards them for all
their great & undeserved kindness
to me - what good & refreshment
to mind & body after their kind faces
& welcomes have done I can't say - only
it's made me feel another creature -

2 BC 151 C87
a pleasant sensible man - He's about 60 I
suppose & has had a good deal of experience
by this time of men & things - It was so re-
freshing to be with one who had really liberal
views - I don't mean like ours you know
not at all that - only while holding to the old
church creed himself yet quite liberal &
charitable to those who differ - Not that
I said any of all my ideas - but saw it in his
way of thinking & speaking of other people -
it's a pleasure to be with those who
are really in earnest & truly good - however
one may be obliged to differ from their
form of belief about it - Oh do you under-
stand my abbreviations? I want to know
that as I am so in the habit of shortening
words all I can especially when writing
to my sisters that I involuntarily do it to
you too - While at Whitley Ears (the bank
-ly) I went over a mill & manufactory wh was
rather near - I do so care to see how things
are made - all kinds of things I mean & that now
I'm so much stronger I will allow myself the
pleasure of it - It's where they make the
preserved milk & cocoa etc - for use at sea
& abroad - & capital it was - I left there
my friends on the 25th for Mrs. Norman's
at Stone (Mrs. Lloyd's mother you know) where
I spent a few very busy & pleasant days - shopping
making calls spending a night with some relations
of theirs a few miles off who were our playfellows
in old days - & lastly packing & left them (Mrs.
Norman & her daughter I mean) on the 31st
for this place - It took me from 10.30 a.m.
to 7 p.m. to get here as this place is really
in Herefordshire & 14 miles or so from Worcester
or -

For though I care very much about words & languages - & indeed about all real things I know I can probably understand very little about them - I'm so glad you have succeeded in finding quarters you like better than Mrs Prosek's - & have a nice landlady - But dear friend you are not good - you do not tell me of your health - I've some passages in your letter I hope it is better - then again others make me think you may not be feeling so well - I wish you would always tell me how you are - you will believe I really care to know - just as much as you to hear the same news from me - & more perhaps - for I feel you are out there all by yourself - & you know I am in the midst of kind loving friends to take of me - I feel very sorry to think dear Louie may not have the pleasure of seeing you - who I know wd be a great one to her - & I think you wd like them too - But if this work you are engaged in at the Cape enables you to stay at home - take better care of your health I must not regret it - but be very glad instead - Oh I've just been thinking what if I should go straight back for England to Natal & not touch at the Cape at all - I should be so sorry - But I feel certain Hamers might make it the right thing to do - I find that Mr Stewart the late chief officer of Waldensian

will have the command of a nice fast sailing little vessel to ply between England & Natal direct - & I should feel such comfort & protection in going in his vessel - He was so particularly kind & nice & helpful to both Louie & myself in our Waldensian voyages - & seemed a really manly & gentlemanly minded man & a thorough sailor too - all who are so mean qualifications for a captain of a vessel - & you know what a difference to comfort & safety every difference makes - the kind of captain you sail with makes - & especially if I have to return quite alone - as I expect to do - I mean without any family I know to be going at the same time - this wd weigh a good deal with me - I thought I had no words to say what a disappointment the missing you again dear friend would be - But we needn't think of this now for I believe his vessel will be here as early as the middle of March - at least this is what Suez told me ~~that~~ expected - so that may be too early for me - I know not yet - I don't know - but I think I watch & long nearly as badly for the African mails as you can for the European ones - I feel so much nearer to dear Louie & you & my other friends while they are in - I mean the few days we have after rec'd letters - ere the next have to go -

BC 151 C8.7

bring if followed - 4 I feel it almost pre-
sumptuous to offer an opinion abt it
but as you ask it with try -
It seems to me that nothing can make
it right to do wrong - & for a clergy
man to stand up & repeat the creed
saying "I believe" what he doesn't seem
to me as if it can't be right - I feel
that if a clergy man were troubled
with doubts even amounting to doubt
right unbelief of some things he
shd be as chary as is consistent with
thorough truth in committing himself
to any down right course till he
were very sure indeed abt it - It seems
to me as if he shd get some one to
take his duties for a while & give
himself time for these doubts or new
ideas to resolve themselves into
certainty - & I feel too that if he
could avoid saying or doing any thing
in ch'ch or out he didn't believe he
m't wait on & do all the part of
his duties wh he did - but not
other wise - It must be a terrible
position though - & I can heartily
feel for yr anxiety abt it -

But I think that people may &
ought to do right - I mean what they
really believe to be such & leave
the consequences to God - whether
to their loved ones or themselves -
& I think the speech of that man
who said "Damn the consequences"
almost sublime - if taken in its
highest meaning - Don't be shocked
at me - I know it's not like an
good English young lady or woman
either to use such words - & only
do it ^{as} under protest - it being the
sentiment they couldn't ^{write} so as
mine - Oh dear it's getting dark - & I
fear my dear portrait & I've
to write to dear Jan still besides
Daisy up all 3 letters & some
books - so I fear I must un-
willingly bid you a hasty adieu
dear Friend - for fear already be
too late - tho I've not 1/2 said
what I wanted on this last
subject - Goodbye my dear Friend
very affectionally yr. little sister
Jemima.