

more indeed than any woman I've met since
leaving dear Louisa. except indeed my Father's young-
est sister who I told you a little about from Eton
or Matlocks. I liked Mr. Nicholls too - & dear old
Mr. Wolly who was there was most kind & good to
me. I had several conversations with the former
on theological subjects - & with the latter when alone
with him on anti do - & enjoyed both in their
different ways. Mr. Nicholls lent me a book to
read on those subjects but I've not had time to
look at it since leaving Brompton - so have no
results to tell you by this mail. He is very liberal
for a clergyman I think - I feel perhaps I was wrong
in saying what I did to you by last mail of Mr. Wolly's
heterodox ideas. I did not know then I was the first
person he had mentioned then, for in all their ex-
tremes - however I know dear friend it is quite safe
to say your meeting - He has lent me some pamphlets
of Parkers which however I've had no moment to looking
at yet - but hope - mean to read as soon as this mail
is gone if heard - I struggle with it now - but some-
times my head goes so stupid I can't read - & then the
only thing seems to be to give it perfect rest & hope
for brighter days - All the rest of my time with them
I mean at Brompton I had many English letters to
write daily & could not find a moment even to begin
a scrap to Louisa ready for this mail - I went
from there to London to a lodging near Mrs.
Fishes as her sisters being unexpectedly obliged to leave
a room for a friend who but arrived by day from
abroad I did not go to her - but calmed myself as for
timid to get this nice clean Eddy lodgng chose by
as I needed to be some day in London to see
Dr. C. & get done some Natal Commission.
I was there just a week & most busy all the time
as again I did not begin to prepare for this mail.
Dear Mrs. Fisher spent most of her time with me
& was the same good kind friend as ever - She seems
much pleased at your kind letter & in sending her the
Paper - I think asked me to remember her kindly to you
in the next but you must forgive my having in the whirl
of other things not quite clear remembrance of

this - However I'm sure she meant it - On the
21st I left my lodging & went to spend the two re-
maining nights of my stay in London with at Aunt
Harriett in Chester Sq. Pimlico - the same one I
was staying with at Richmond soon after Sandy
in England. They were my kind but after what has passed
between herself & me about my change of belief - the con-
fident misunderstanding letters I mean why, perhaps
I told you she wrote to me soon after I left her
I did not feel comfortable in being in her house - so
tho very grateful for her kindness in asking me to stay
try to avoid going again - On Satth the 23rd I came
here to the Bagnons i.e. Mama's youngest sister Aunt
Julia who married her 1st cousin Thomas Bagnon
so he is between an uncle & cousin to us as it were
I like him much tho' ~~some~~ what peculiar - I
love her dear thing & admire her much in some
ways tho' in others she is the most girlish indeed
almost babyish woman for 47 or thereabouts of
any I have seen - I merely say these things to give you
a faint idea of those I'm with as I know you like
to be able to picture ^{surrounding} things & people - Their children
3 boys are from home just now - the eldest who
is the age of my little sister or thereabouts come home
from Oxford next week & the youngest from Eton
so this will be our Xmas party - For they want
me to stay over Xmas & I have consented for now
I've seen them & find that many things we've that
cold & been pained by the last few years were
merely the result of their misunderstanding our
silence or our cold letters when writing in the midst
of sorrows we did not wish to pain them with
& so did not mention - & so had the we had
grown cold & not caring & this idea had naturally
so pained & altered them - However it's all cleared
up now & the happiness of being with them & find-
ing them like they used to be in old days is doubly
great from the part dated of our unsappreciated
love - Since I came here there was not a minute
I did seize for foreign letters for many fine days
as there was so much that Aunt Julia wanted to
know who took up all the time except

what was occupied by needful English letters
of which I've had very many lately - so the mail came
without my even having begun a line to my dear
Lavinia or any one - & then unfortunately I got this
attack of my old sickness & weakness in spine &c
&c - was quite good for nothing for two or 3 days &
am hardly the thing yet - It was nothing to mind or
body - & what I should have taken little note of 6 months
back when I was as almost constantly like that
but it was a disappointment & disagreeable inter-
ruption to my late very good health - besides my
so particularly in convenience at mail times -
I suppose I must have counted too much on
my newly regained health & strength & so done
foolish things - in part unwittingly & in part
from necessity while in London & on my coming
hence - But it's been a lesson to me & I shall
take more care in future - Now you must not
scold me dear friend but let my candour dis-
arm your wrath at my imprudence - & I have
told myself I can assure you - Have finished
this brief sketch of the last past month I must
ask you Dr. Pringle's opinion of me - or rather
as that is too long to scribble now - of when I
may return to Natal - He advises me to
wait if I can get another 12 months in
England & I feel sure he is right - tho endorsing
his opinion very reluctantly as you can im-
agine - so now instead of next April I shall
think of end of next Dec - or beginning of Jan 1863 -
Doesn't it seem a dreadful long time - of course
shd there be any news from home making it
indiscoverable for me to remain away thus long
I shd go back directly - at least at any time
that seemed right - best for dear Lavinia or the
others - but I hear that unless this sort of
my happiness I mean to think of staying down
year - try to do so - tho I shd be glad of the
longer time for improvement - I mean
leaving things as one can do better in

I go hence to Brighton and Coulsdon Court
Wing - BC 151 C8. 8 Mr Coulsdon
Surrey -
Dec^r 4 1861 -

My dear friend

I rec^d your most welcome letter of
20th & 22nd October last week on 29th Nov - the Cam-
brian as usual making a quick passage so we
had the mail early - It came on 27th I believe but
my letters always meet with delay necessarily
from having to follow me about -
Thank you very very much for it, my dear friend -
I may not hope to send you a letter this time having
been very poorly last week which prevented me from
writing - so have only had the three days this (Sunday
was the 1st Dec^r) in which to accomplish all my letters
& being tho' much better rather weak still have not
dared to write all day & so make up for lost time -
But very sorry as I am to be only able to send you a
short note, both for curtailing the great pleasure to
me which even this one-sided mine of chat with you is;
& because, judging by myself, I fancy you will be dis-
appointed too - yet now I know you so must better
I have the comfort of feeling that you will not mis-
understand my words thus little but quite believe
how it is want of time & power, not of will - which has
occasioned it - Indeed your kind unsolicited in-
junctions leave me no choice but to try & do right
all worthy to you little or much according as health
allows - Thank you very much dear friend for all
you have said to me all it -
I don't know at all how to thank you for your
dear letter - or tell you how glad it makes me to
have good news of you -
tho not liking to do so I fear I must tell you just a little
of how I've passed the last month, since Nov 4th I mean
before I let myself read & answer what little I can
of your letter - in case there shd not be time for both -
I stayed at Broom's Barn when I then wrote up to
the 14th & enjoyed it much - I like Susan that is
Mrs Richel's poor George's eldest sister very much

Your answers to my questions are of deep interest
to me. I think I understand you - but wish to
to answer you as all them for next time -

England - done on two minor ^{BC 151 - C88} reasons - yet
on the other hand this lengthened exile
seems at times dreadful - But I must
take up this & last of them now -
You see I may avail myself of Miss Town
send's return after all - The Dr said so I wait
till then he believes I shall be as strong &
well as ever I was in my life - which is very
good hearing & of course so great a boon
is worth some waiting & sacrifice to ob-
tain - That did I go back now, all I
have gained wd certainly be undone -
That I must get well enough to return
in April - but he hardly thought it wd
be such a sure entire recovery as to stand
any very trying things (such as with our poor
Father we must always expect in Natal)
out there aided by the hot climate - He
seemed much pleased & surprised at the al-
teration in me for the better already -
Oh dear I fear I must say goodbye - As it's
so near post time & my letter to Louie still
not 1/2 done - I may have time to write
for a 2nd opportunity - as I'm likely to run up
to London tomorrow but not feeling very
strong can't count upon it -
Goodbye my dear Friend Ever believe me
with love affectionately & sincerely
Jemima

I can't bear only to send this wretched letter
in answer (or rather its not an answer) to you
kind long one - I shall enclose it in two envelopes
in case you're left - Jo C. Hoag -
I shall as long for next mail to know what is yr
destination - My news from home were good -
dear truly better - I trust yr sister too is well
in this -