

then higher ones; & on paper too, wh adds so much to the difficulty - for I think when people talk together, especially if friends, they may gather almost as much from what each in your letter have brought it more particularly into other countenances & express as from the words that are spoken - Yes I should like to have a real talk with you on these subjects more than the words to say - only I fear if ever the happiness of seeing you again does come - I shall be almost as silly & afraid of you as I was before - do you know what I mean? its so different ~~way~~ writing things to say in them - I mean for a moral coward like me - I'm scarcely afraid of being laughed at ~~them~~ - one feels the long distance call that helps to make people judge more leniently of the faults & follies a letter may contain - besides I do feel if you or anyone I'm with too do laugh at me, that I shant be there to see it, & be thoroughly frozen sent back into myself for ~~as~~ my long time to come; not only to them but to everyone else - for I think with anyone who has a great dread of ridicule that will be its effect - I know it is with me - I know of course that I'm very foolish & ridiculous, in many many things - ways - but still that doesn't make me bear it better - Perhaps not being a moral coward you dont know all the agonies that it involves - You know I was not really afraid of you I mean not very much - only I always am of anyone I like & respect - I suppose it is that some unhappy chance has given me a keen appreciation of all the good nice things in other people in wh I'm so wanting myself - & the more I like them the more I cant bear that they should see what how unworthy I am of their friendship - & so I shrink from the least appearance of any ridiculousness on their parts as showing I suppose that they see I'm worthy of it - & yet at the same time I feel as if I cant bear any one's letting me on false pretences, al it were - I mean their being a person who my consciousness tells me doesn't exist - & I feel I would give worlds, if I had them that they were patient enough - and wise enough to hear a know all - & yet magnanimous enough to give me at least a crumb of their friendship notwithstanding all - & help me to leave off being what I am; & to try more than ever to be what I would instead of it - Perhaps this seems all gibberish to you - I scarcely

know why I say it - except perhaps because I can't in mind this afternoon -
Apropos of friends - I shall soon feel more lonely in Egy land than I've done yet - for the Sandersons sail for Natal on 10th Jan³ - Its true I scarcely seen them since they've been in Great Britain - not exchanged letters much often than once a month - but still I felt, then they were - & that in any great straight we'd be with each other - for their friendship for us has been tried in the fire of many painful troubles & difficulties stood the test nobly - Indeed I don't know what would have become of us & me many times if it had not been for their goodness - & especially his - Of course being a man he could do so much more, & besides, his own battles, her invalid life had never met with; having been of course from that very circumstance shut in from the outer world to a great degree; & always hedged round with care & love - I fancy our very odd kind of lives have made us in many ways, think & feel more like men, than is generally the lot of girls - I mean we're constantly had to take a man's part - of protecting us, as well as providing for many helpless children, & their mother as well - & since that act of our wives ceased, (with our expulsion from home) we've had to protect ourselves, & our elder & younger sister too - You can fancy how very different all this is to the general sitting drawing room, or housewifey, lives of most girls, who have their father or plenty of brothers to protect them; & care for all those things, for them wh most naturally fall to men to do -
why I speak to you about the Sandersons is both because they are very much in my thoughts just now & because I cant help hoping you may come to Natal some day - i. I want you to know, & I hope like, my greatest friends there - I should much like to tell them of you too - but can't, because they are cursed by a sister of Mrs Sanderson's, who is a woman I can neither like or trust

& who is as much with them that she generally gets
to know every thing Mrs. Sanderson does - & I don't choose
to tell him any thing wh I did not have his wife know.
You can understand my feelings abt this - when people
are really & rightly one; you feel its a wrong to both
to do any thing of that kind - Oh, you can guess how we
detest this sister of this Mrs. Ashton - How we call
her the "Fleur" & all sorts of complimentary names;
for were it not for her; our friendship with the
Sandersons w^t be without alloy - for I can thoroughly
trust dear Mrs. Sanderson except when that two
man is concerned - The fact is she - Mrs. Sanderson are
both much too good & nice to either see or believe what
a selfish unworthy woman Mrs. Ashton is - How
they can be sisters I can't make out - Well I must
put some restraint upon my pen here, or I shall tire of you
soodly - For she has been a source of pain & discomfort
to us in so many ways, that I can seldom think of
her with any patience - at least not as regards her
relations to us & the Sandersons - Please I can feel very
sorry for the poor woman for I think a selfish discontented person
cannot be even a greater curse to themselves than they can
be to anyone else - & besides she has not very good health either -
perhaps that helps to make her more disagreeable
than she ^{would} not otherwise be -
but I must drop for dinner now for fear of being late - - - later
however, I don't so much mind as you do know Mr. Sanderson
already slightly - I think if ^{you} meet him again, &
see more of him, you will like him much - & you would
like too, did you get to know her - but that is rather a
difficult thing to do - at least I found it so - But she is
well worth it - I'm very glad to be so near London, as as
to be within tolerably easy reach of them when they come
there in the course of this week ready for embarkation -
It will be very sad to say goodbye to them tho' - However,
besides believing its for their own good happiness,
I can feel too that they are going back to dear Louis -
& she needs the help & comfort of such a friend as he
is far more now than I - & I have the hope of getting
back there too by &c you know - so I mustn't be foolish
about it - only one feels there are such risks - when

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all
my
desires
to
you
on
Sunday
like
writing
to
you
on
Sunday
So I
say
this
afternoon
wh will be my last Sunday before next mail goes
to begin to answer your last clear letter - You
know what a stupid & hurried one I had to send last
time from not having been well just before the
mail went - & I do not for a good deal have to do the
same this one, so begin now - especially as having
been much troubled with neuralgia in head & face
for the last fortnight - often too bad to allow of my
doing anything - I feel my powers of writing so very uncer-
tain - however if it should come back - prevent my
finishing this as I wish, you will understand why
it is I know with great difficulty to do it - I've been re-
reading your last letter & will try to answer it in order
so that I may not forget anything - for when the pain comes
my head gets very stupid & I can't think properly -
However I won't anticipate evils just now, but
allow myself the full enjoyment of a chat with you
Yes I know that goodness & greatness are very precious
things - if one just takes them calmly as men would
see what they are constantly applied to a mean - but I think
I used them as perhaps the nearest thing I could find at those
moments to what I wanted - & as used them as expressing
a lot of higher deeper thoughts - wh perhaps can't be put
into adequate words at all - certainly not easily - Perhaps
you know what I mean - Now, whether when thinking of
of those we most deeply love - highly respect of all we're
known on earth; & still more of the One who is above
all - we just know what we ourselves feel & mean - but
find no words to express it in - & no one just uses
poor weak symbols to stand for great things - "fante de melle"
in short - Or perhaps it was that I chose one to state
it, at what seemed to me the lowest possible denomination
that at wh any one who studied the works in any way both
of creation & the moral world can arrive at, with regard
to the being who had made & upholds all - whatever he
may choose to think or call it - But at best of times on earth
of subjects you know what a poor tumbler I am at
expressing myself - so I can scarcely hope to do it clearly on

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signs of way - for all the old ideas & associations full for me & bore all the pain of her doubts alone;
we keep going back mechanically, - attaching them sooner than by telling me, run the risk of unsettling &
severing each passage; so that I did not get its first ideas too; wh. she felt was too painful as ~~anything~~
further effect at all, like I wanted - & this about St Paul went to Ruth - I never knew what she thought
I mean the thinking of him as just a relearner ² till mine had somehow just changed of themselves to
man, with mind too, gives me quite a fresh feeling
- interest to read his Epistles to see what he did
think - believe, & his reasons as far as may be for
so doing - more like one reads a biography in short
Do you know what I mean? Perhaps you never
had the opportunity & the inclinⁿ to think great
disadvantage of daily reading or hearing psalms &
chapters, whether one was in humour for them
or not & so may not be able to understand how
difficult it is to one to read them for myself as it
were now - Thank you much for telling me more
about your Father's works - There are many things I do
like to ask you abt, out of what you say, abt the Bible - but
must not attempt it now - in fact I fear I've not so
ficient precision & power of expression & letter to
let me venture on it at all in writing - but notwithstanding
these things - what you say has been well be agreed
deal of help & guide in many ways, & do not feel dear
friend that your trouble & pains have been wasted.
I can quite understand your thinking that, with
reference poor George Wolley - It was a very natural con-
clusion - but happens not to be the true one here -
no, Lucy's ideas began to unseal the change on our ro-
uting out from Eng land nearly 7 years ago - & had I think
reached their acme of doubt & perplexity long before she
knew poor George - who as it happened was not of the
turn of mind to puzzle & vex himself with theological
subjects, & I fancy believed (or thought he did) very much
in the old paths, tho' travelling a great deal, as to
Australia, California &c & had of course rubbed
off or softened many prejudices & opened his eyes
to some things - in the way wh. I think if people
have any sense or minds at all, it always must -
His father too has I think only come to think as
he does now, within the last few years - proba-
bly since George last left Eng land; wh. must be just
over 5 years now - Dear ^{dear} was very good & thought

till mine had somehow just changed of themselves to
abt 4 years after - nor that she differs from ^{as at all}
in point of creed tell a few months earlier ^{think} I don't
know it was being so troubled about by circumstances, &
make to think for ourselves as it were, that did it -
aided by the want of many church helpers & props, wh. our
peculiar circumstances denied us - wh. I'm deeply
thankful for ^{now} ^{should} liberty to tell upon all I may
of that dear history, but its not a thing one can enter
into with conversation goⁿ on in the room
& now dear Lucia has gone I don't know when I shall
get another real peaceful time for write to you -
I say "all I may" because, dear Lucia, I have been made
so very much more one than ever sister who care a
good deal for each other often are - that she has talked
almost thought out loud, to me, more like a second
self if you know how sacred such confidence is -
Don't you think from this that we follow the young-
ladyism "rule" of telling each other everyth. whether we
the right to do so or not - for reticence is a virtue
we highly esteem it, in our little party, han^g for
Because this we know we tell each other nearly everyth.
wh. is merely personal to either, yet we shd feel it mean
a wrong to any of our friends, who may be, known one of us
much better than the other, to tell ^{them} ~~them~~ respecting ^{them}
I mean on the private, without ^(come ashore) granted -
This is how I came to know so little, nothing I can say
about dear George's relations; & to feel such absolute
stranger to them when going amongst them by their
him wish since I've been in Eng land - For dear Lucia's
engagement with him was broken off so soon - before
even any of their letters to Eng land tell of it, & be answered
that I naturally heard little of them ^{them} -
since that, the dear Lucia had been great & firm
friends for several years, & of course she knew about
them; yet for the aforesaid reason I never ~~heard~~
heard of it - except what slight allusions to them in
his letters, wh. by his leave, were always open to me too - often
answered by me, if dear Lucia happened to hear, or if, or
but, when they came - what I've said above abt

their engagement must seem strange to you - & I
can look sadly back on dear lost part - as it was
entirely broken off by her - then but did you know
all, you wⁿt think so - She'd been obliged to leave
home abt a year & previously, owing to some un-
happy differences with our father about money matters,
wh I do not like to explain to you, because I cannot
do so without blaming him - & you can I'm sure un-
derstand how except perhaps in the first heat
of bitter indignation one shirks from doing that
even to a real friend, ^{what ought another commandant} - A family, who lived on a
neighbouring farm, had given her a home with
them, which both her independence & gratitude,
(of both wh qualities she has I think rather more
than a common share) concurred to make
her repay by her services to the ^{Mother} of her power -
& so well did she succeed that she became invaluable
to them; & being unfortunately very selfish
people, & especially the woman, who was most clever
too - they managed to sow distrust & pain between
her & poor George, feeling if she married him ^{that}, of course
they would lose her aid - Oh it was such a thing -
such a diabolical thing to do - I think - so heart-
lessly cruel - And then she was poor girl, away
from all of us, who, tho' not nearly so sensible as she
is, yet might have helped her by just own wise coun-
sel - & without any mother to guide her - just
at the mercy of these wretched Middletons -
you can fancy how easy it was for them to make
all her intercourse with poor George most un-
comfortable, & nearly impossible; their disor-
gued speeches; for he is very sensitive at all
times; of course on such a subject, & so diffi-
cultly placed, wd be doubly so, ^{so to be} being thus
to prevent all possibility of quiet explana-
tions, & clearing up of things - the game was in
their own hands - as a clever woman like
Mrs Middleton could easily under the guiz

You go good by like this ² of never meeting again - at
least not in this world

Monday afternoon 30 Dec - My hand is very shaking
for writing - as I've been just having a game at bottle
dice & shuttlecock with one of my cousins - as the only
available means of warming my self - As after all the
hot fomentations to my face, I dare not go out this cold
day - & no amount of fire keeps me warm indoors -
if debarred all exercise - I bear it so -
but I'm vexed at this result for letter writing -
Pain in face kept me awake till past 3 this morning
but I feel much better today notwithstanding - thanks
to some medicine wh Dr Phipps sent me yesterday -
Spin him very clever - indeed I afford to live in
London to see plenty of him I should have hopes of getting
well faster - However I ought to be very contented - thank
ful for as many means & opportunities for my health as
I have already; & must not wish for impossibilities -
only it is very disappointing when I ~~had~~ got so much
better; & was hoping to be well enough to get on with the
many things I want to learn - do - interrupt
you & catch now just gone - while in England - to have
rather gone backwards than in advance during this last
months. But after more than 6 yrs out of England one
to expect to find the first winter trying -
I think I understand what you mean abt not attempting
to conceive what a Blessing wh God is - or rather say that
I have a kind of glimmering of it - tho' I don't much like
to be able to ask you may thys abt it, wh I hardly know
how to put with even tolerable clearness on paper - So
that too it seems must wait -
With respect to the Bible I meant both "historically true"
& authentic of the writer" - also something more wh I can-
scarcely put into words, but wh I suppose is what you
mean under the head of "dogmatically acceptable"
Thank you very much dear friend for all the trouble you
have taken in telling me so much about it - It is of
deep interest to me - & what you do ^{now} at St Paul's for
epistles has given me a ^{new} & more interest in reading them
& perhaps may other parts as possibly bear upon them
that I much wanted before - I wished truly to read
all the new testament again, to try & see what it now
seem to me to mean now - but unfortunately I know
so much of it nearly by heart, & having read it nearly
all so quoted, preached on, &c &c etc - that I find
it nearly impossible to read it in any new an-
other

say you who know so much about their
subject & not care for them - but to my eyes
rare all was very interesting Yes, I do mean
to read Newman's Phases of Faith & but must wait
till I go either in lodgings of my own or stay with
Heterodox friends neither of wh^t I see an chance
of at present - or till the warm weather re-
turns so that I can get up early & read in my
own room - before any one else is awake to
be shocked by my books - You know I can't have
books like that one, about in the sitting room,
where I am staying because both of people being
horribly shocked themselves of the chance of
their finding their way into the hands of any
young people who may be there too ^{for until}
I feel comfortable settled in some better or other
I don't want to run the risk of any painful
doubts in the minds of others wh^t I can't yet
solve for myself - I have two pamphlets of
Theodore Parker in my box now, which we did not
have the chance of reading since they were sent
to me 6 weeks ago -

I think there is truth in what you say about our
engagements - at least some - Thursday Jan 12th 1862
I did not leave off here for want of time but felt too
poor & good for nothing to write as they I wished to do - as
I hate ^{the} mechanical letters myself - I left off just
as you will the same - Yesterday was taken up by
a journey to London & back - Today I feel I dare not
allow myself the pleasure of going on answering your
letter as I had meant to do ready for this mail - as
you only one page written as yet to dear Louis - I will
I must write her all I can before rec'd her letter to
morrow - I see by "Times" that the Cape Mail came
yesterday morn - but my letters have not arrived
yet - I had a note from Dr Russell yesterday
me he does not think so well of my case as he
did & that I ought to go to London & stay in Lon-
don to be under inspection - & I must do this
as soon as mail has gone & I can find a lady

for the ^{one} ^{handful} of Aunt G is now in London & would
doubtless go with me to come to her yet I do not like
to do so for fear of being in the way - But I must
say goodbye for the present -

Continued from other 4 tablet -
Jan 14th to night - That naming of our poor
mad stepmother has reminded me of a pain-
ful subject wh^t I must in my right & duty to
you, not shrink from entering upon - so
say as quickly as I can, before closing this -
I can't help thinking that I said someth^t apt
incidentally to you one day at Cape Town
that of course ^{much} slightly, apropos of some-
thing else. one my ^{husband} has been talking of

It is, that I fear there is insanity in some
branches of our father's family - tho' thank
God, nothing of the kind in dear Mama -

One of his sisters (the one I told you of as being
so fond of & such a noble woman, this almost
an invalid) went quite mad one poor thing -
but that was from a sudden mortifying
& dreadful shock; coming when she was in
very weak health too. I feel that it happen-
ed to ^{any} one - ~~but~~ entirely recovered, within a
year I think, or a little more - & is now like
some - sensible ^{too} than most women I've ever
seen - So perhaps that's not a fair instance
With ^{the} you to be now it - we can't
help thinking too that much of our own poor
father's strange unnatural conduct to us &
may others, is from something wh^t this in him
has just stopped short of heresy - & makes him so
different ^{re-called} - & makes him more morally

the only other instances I know are
among cousins on his side -
1st cousins of ours I believe; and we
never knew any much of all our
Welsh relations - & in one or more
of Uncles on his mother's side
who I believe died out of their
minds - they ^{can't} ~~not~~ be mere children
now - still with ^{the} other facts I don't like
not to tell them ^{to} you at all -
I feel & believe that we need not fear
the same sad fate for our selves -
both because I believe we take ^{the} ~~the~~
much more after my mother's family ^(than my father's)
than whom I think it will be difficult
to find a more thorough ^{set of} ~~set of~~
~~bad~~ ^{bad} murdered people, & because I
think - that had we inherited it, we
would not have gone ^{both} thro' all the heavy
trials we have ^{at home} since -
without its helping them to ~~send~~ us
as - as to dearest Louis & myself
I feel as if they were a guarantee as
it were to us, that we need not fear -
still in justice to your dear friend I feel
you ought to know all this - & if it should
make you think differently about the
future you know I cannot & shall
not blame you - I fear you might
then I don't quite think you will - feel my men-
tion of God once or twice, what with you will
be perhaps irreverent - but you will ^{feel} that
believe me I never meant it so - I've only him to turn

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of disinterested friendship, wh she knew only
too well how to simulate at times - say this
first to George - then to Lucy & each other, wh
must end in mistrust & sorrow - falsehood
I mean - pretend that each had said so & so after
other's & at - making both almost too painful to
seek an explanation ^{in chance of} however she could
way there to prevent ~~it~~ - I think it speaks
volumes for both dear Louis & George - that notwithstanding
all this they became fast friends
that she was so far successful at the time
as to make dear Louis, tho' hating & respecting her
scarcely in many ways, yet not feel the compunction
& trust & oneness that would ^{wish him} make her feel right
in giving him her hand - You know poor Louis
was many morbid ideas abt her self - among
others, that she is so ugly & stupid that no one
would her & at - as with this groundwork to go
upon Mrs Middleton's talk was an easy - & so dis-
troyed the very thing wh I trusted at the time in
have cured them for ever - I know d you see
her, Louis I mean; you too w^d pronounce these
fancies groundless - one from different cause
she had a very unhappy childhood & youth -
all wh naturally contributed to make her
take a bad view of things - herself especially
I don't know whether all this is intelligible to
you - & scarcely feel sure that even if it is, ^{so} you
will not find it tedious - but I have taken you
at your word, as I trust it - & feel that it will be
one my perplexities prolixity wh will make you
wish I hadn't done so -

Tuesday evening Dec 31st - I am so looking for your next
letter - I'm very glad you liked what you saw of Dr
Grey that day - I speak much wish to hear the result of
your paper on the Kafir name for God - This an in-
teresting subject - there was a very interesting article
in last week's "Times" on a course of lectures given
in last summer ^{in London} on Philology by Max Müller or
some such name - since published - I dare