

truly, as if we were two other quite indif-
ferent people, & you wish see it wasn't -
If I had not returned your love, you wish see it
could have done me no harm, & be best too that
you dear friend should have been no longer under
a hope of what could be & if, or rather than
God I may say, as I do (tho' I do indeed feel it to be
with so many imperfections) can't you realize
the joy & thankfulness - the intense delight of
knowing it must be to me to hear it, & to know
that I may feel, give you my best love too -
I can fancy how you saw it dearest friend -
as, not being a woman, you could not know the
dreadful pain & fear, & shame too, of feeling that
perhaps she cared for another who did not for
her - not in that way at least I mean -
I feel it must be so different with men, as they
have the right, both before God & man, to
offer that most precious gift, ^{if worthy} their love,
& ask for its return - but if you think
of our position in such things for a mo-
ment, you wish see what I mean - I trust
dearest friend ^{quite} against yourself (as I do) of
all wrong or selfishness to me in this ac-
tion - I don't for a moment think I was
deceiving this arrangement ^(about our sex & marriage) or I have it al-
tered - I feel as if it must be both natural
& right - only I have known some of
the cases in which, in part at least, thro' it
women have had sad sufferings - But I don't
know in this world - where we see nothing
perfect that even right & wise laws
must do cruel wrong - pain to individuals

BC 151 CB. 10 Jan 74th 62.

My very dear friend - I hasten to reply to the
letter which reached me yesterday - Yours of Oct
& Novⁿ - I should have begun before, but mingled
joy & anxiety kept me awake nearly all last
night - I happened to be very poorly just now,
it has altogether made me fit for little today
& I so fear not answering your dear letter
as I would - Yes my dear dear friend I do love
you - I can't at all adequately tell you what ^{my}
your dear letter giving me the right to do so,
is to me - My only fear is I don't love you well
enough - not as your wife ought - I mean not
with that deep true all-sufficient love which
I believe alone makes that relationship
quite holy & happy & enduring - Please for-
give me speaking thus - God knows I
won't give you any pain - but I am so afraid
of not acting rightly to you, by undertaking
that which I feel that love alone can hope to
sustain, without ^{being sure} ~~truly~~ truly having it -
So I want to be quite fair & tell you all - &
give you the option of taking back your
dear words - if, as I fear, I am not worthy of
them - I don't believe I ever should be - but
a deep real love might - & that is what I
so fear accepting them without having
I've not been at all well lately - I feel ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{that} my
make me just have morbid ideas & distrust
of own feelings, & so be unfair to my ^{just now} self - & be
Ladies

to see me often - yet even he does not seem
to think very badly of me, but that by just
laying by & taking great care for a little while
now, I may pick up lost ground, & men
again nicely as before - & I'm a great
believer in happiness being a powerful
medicine, for good - & now the dreadful
anxious work of answering your question
is partly done - I can now feel & realize
the happiness it has given me - I did so
of read misleading you at all, either one
way or the other - but I know how quick
you are at understanding me; so I trust
a good deal to that, to help out my imper-
fect & blundering letter - & besides, the feeling
that I've earnestly tried to tell you the
truth, & act for the most rightable
all - gives me a kind of peaceful trust
that it will be all for the best - I mean
the real highest best - (whatever present ^{the one way I mean}
severe pain to both of us it ^{is} involve
whichever way you decide - because,
remember, I earnestly wish to learn that
full right with you - so do not think
that any thing I may say all our possible
happy future involves the contrary -
I shall rather dread the loneliness of a
time in London lodgings - & I suppose

has not said how long I shall need to be under
his eye & I suppose he can't tell - But I
shall have your dear letter as a comfort - & shall
hope to try more than ever to be wise about
my health, in taking right care I mean,
as to be quite well eventually I hope - & to
be well - I mean fit for some of the many
things I should now want more ^{than ever} ~~ever so soon~~
to learn & do before returning to Africa -
No indeed you must not come to England
the idea makes me shudder - for I know
how much even I, who am quite strong in
chest & lungs, feel & have felt this sad & gloomy,
at times bitter weather - I'm sure
it's no fit climate for delicate people -
I believe it's been partly from the weather
that I've been so poorly - & partly also from
having perhaps overtried my newly recovered
health & strength too soon, & too much -
But this relapse with I must be a sad
- & a lesson to me - I will try to profit by
it - Besides when in London I mean
if well enough - to begin a long
intended study of your language - & to
now I long to know more than ever -
this will be a great interest -
You don't know how I should care to
see & know your dear Mother - But I
feel I mustn't talk of that till I get the
answer to this letter which cannot be
till end of March at earliest, I fear -

Very likely having lost my own dear mother at times -
so young, & missed her so badly - makes me
think off long to her & yours. all the more. It will soon be 19 years since Ma died
& I do miss her dreadfully now - more as a burden to oneself than ever before. I think I can feel
since I got yr dear letter - than ever before. Perhaps it's better that I have not even had
her help in answering it, but just had to try
& do it simply, as before God, & between you
& me - but one does so long for a mother to
turn to in a joy like this - at least a girl
does. But it would indeed be sadly selfish to
wish her back in the weary painful life
she led on earth, for our sakes. No, I feel
thankful each year as the day comes
round to feel she has had one more of peace,
even now can do so - tho' I want her dear love
& presence so much - It may seem strange
to you perhaps that I do not let her sister
who I am with, & who is very dear ^{to me} ^{how to be}
to me in every way she knows, share my
happiness all this - But, besides wishing
& meaning to tell no one except dear Lucy
of this, my possibility for until yr answer to
^{as I feel in the right place for yr answer, you may think I do not}
this comes - & so for that reason keep
^{to be the cause} quite quiet & try to look as if I wasn't
very glad, or very envious, just now - besides
all this - I always th^t I said, before I knew
you were dear friend, that after different
ways in wh the 2 of me & dear Ma was
brother & sister at least some of time ^{had}

Jan 4th 2 - BC 151 C 8.18
Don't talk of self-sacrifice dear friend - is it not
our highest joy to be able to be of any help or con
to those we love? Did I not know what
a burden to oneself it is - I think I can feel
almost glad that you are not quite beyond
the possibility of rec'd love & care in earthly
things as well as much as ^{with all those sympathies} ~~sympathies~~ as in others
But I know as the blessedness of health -
& the true misery of illness - even such
want of health, as makes one's physical
life a weary burden - even ^{when} ~~at times~~ ^{the}
with those we love most - that I would
willingly relinquish all hope of yr being at all
in that way dependent on a poor love or
care - for the joyful knowledge you had
the happiness of feeling well again - But
I think we need not despair of this for much
that you have said in yr last 2 letters before
this gives me hopes that you are really
& steadily gaining ground - so I trust this
happy improvement may last till you are
once more really well & dear friend -
And for me tho' I feel very poorly just
now & indeed have been far from well
most of the last 5 or 6 weeks - & as I told
you I meant to tell you in my earlier writ
about of this letter, that Dr. Napier thinks
too I have lost ground, & urges on me
to come to stay in London at once,
so as to be near for him

such sad sufferers from it - that I shd
just mistrust my self, & more gladly a-
void the trial of it - I feel those engaged
to each other can't be too careful to
keep all others from coming between them
& that they are safest just left to each other
& to God - to strengthen their mutual love
& trust, & grow fit for a real union -
one worthy the name - at the end - when
ever it may rightly come - I do often think
of those lines - "One near one, is too far".
It is in Browning's poem "by the fire-side"
in wh he evidently I think tells of the time
tho he first told his wife that was to be
of his love for her - I think it is so ex-
pressive - It was the word union for
one self that let it into my mind again -
Don't talk of being poor, dear friend, at least
not to me - its people I love, not their pos-
sessions - tho I can understand that, coming
into your head - by the way in wh the thought
of you has made me long to be richer, so
as to be, not only not an expense, but ^{with} ^{too} ^{my} ^{little} ^{bit} ^{of} ^{money} I can scarcely
be as it is) to you but able to make you
not have to think so anxious or work
so hard for the future - when ill or
not at all for it - I know real work,
wh one is fit for, is a real delight & one
no real man or woman ^{that} he without
if they could - but to feel, one has to do it

Jan 4-3rd - 3C 151 C 8. 10
gained - disappointed us by their want of
^{or rather gratitude!} love & appreciation for the only real friends
of ours out there who we had sent to them?
that did I ever care ^{very} much for, & en-
gage myself to any one? I wd not tell them
because I shd feel far to proud of caring
for, any such - to choose to endure all their
possible questions & remarks - Don't
you know what I mean? - I should not
choose to justify my action to them, when
I felt that possibly they wd not quite un-
derstand - One can't bear to talk of
those things except to the rare few
who understand you as it were in-
stinctively - They are nearly all most kind
& good to us in their several ways -
but, as I think I told you, are most of
them (from their bringing up, & after
lives too) very bigoted & narrow minded
on many subjects - Of course did I feel they
any right to be consulted in this, it wd
be different - ^{it} ^{that} ^{be} ^a ^{day} ^{then} ^{to}
endure any either painful - narrow - or
worldly remarks - but I feel I am grow-
ing now, & since dear Papa & her mother
too are gone, my poor father has by turn-
ing us out of his house of course forfeited
all a Father's claims of this kind - there is

earthly
adverse physical necessities go - as you some
what desponding way of speaking of your own
prospects, makes me think you felt it -
I feel so sorry I've said this - because I've
not put it at all in the words or sense
in wh I mean it, & so it reads most
unpleasantly, ^{almost} unwomanly to me - at
least one part - but I don't like to
scratch it all thro, as with a puff
read I will be no more successful
did I try again - ^{never before} so I will again trust
to your love for me to understand it,
not as it stands - but in the way you
will feel I can rightly mean it -

Goodbye for your now as I have to drop
for dinner -
later - I feel so poorly that I see I must end
this as there are other letters wh I must write
to go by tomorrow morning - ^{besides} -
Please don't be anxious all the dearest - for
I quite believe this will be nothing - I mean
not more than just feeling ill - wear out of
sorts for a few days or more - wh the after
doubt you - but I feel it will be very unwise
to the chance of again turning the corner, &
beginning to get better again quickly, like I want
to in any way that I can help try myself
more now - & as you will understand my
leaving off instead of going on to tell you the
many things I want, & also to finish answering
your letter - I've a vivid remembrance of you

mother's picture - I too feel I must leave the
go alone just now, at least as far as this letter goes,
but ~~must~~ just tell you how much I like to
read what you've said about it -
Oh & I want to ask you not to be surprised
or pained if you should get my short letters from
me by both next mails - as, besides a certain
constraint wh I shall feel until you answer
to this can come - I mean to try & be very con-
fident about my health, & to that end must not try
it at mail times, as I have often done -
This time I did not care, as higher interests
are involved than of by just a little better
or worse - but you who I have seen to so pa-
tiently to be prudent for the sake of the duty
you felt gets below to be - with well un-
derstand the harm of acting imprudently -
even only once a month as a regular
thing - for the way you are anxious to get all
my dear letters, helps to try me a little thing
by itself - so I can not bear much extra
preparation of other kinds than with even
ordinary impurity - Oh please tell me
quite if you find this letter difficult to
decipher - I know it is so badly written -
I'm getting anxious at not hearing from the Dan-
clersons - I hope she may be very ill - & she
too anxious or wretched to write - I do so wish
you to know him well - I know it generally
is unwise to tell people much of each other
lest they should be proportional disappointed
but I almost think you can't help liking
& admiring him - much - My present hap-
piness makes me think too of him - for
I feel it chiefly owing to his dear helpfull

friendship & counsel - still more, ^{the} bright
example of his & her daily home life, ^{that} have
been under God's merciful protection, ^{the} means of making me any thing I am - ^{that}
I will be, & of keeping me from any thing I
might easily have fallen into, ^{that} I am now
most thankful to have escaped -

But I must not leave dear Louie out in
this - for I believe her love & trying for good
& right (this sometimes in a mistaken
way) were ^{for} my salvation almost -
I was only thinking of them as being the 2 out-
sider people (I mean not relations) who have
been more to me of help & good & comfort

than any others till I met you dearest -
& I think you will understand how much
I feel to owe them - & especially him -
Of course this will make it hard not to claim
their love & sympathy with my happiness now
but I feel it would be right to do so till after
the answer to this has reached me - if that
does make it so -

Don't be vexed with my not using your X train
name - one thing is I don't feel the right to do it
yet - I mean which I wait your answer - & another
that I did not readily call one I loved best by your
first name; he can be my poor father
it is so dreadfully associated in my mind with
many more than painful times, & scenes in
our lives; & has been so terribly desecrated to my
ear by being used as it has been by his poor often
mad wife - I mean the present Mrs Hop -
that you will understand my being loath to give
it one I love much - & I do not know what
your other initials stand for - even as I have
ventured to use one

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to do it even when little fit, is trying -
Don't be vexed dearest at what I said above,
I mean at my gladness for both our sakes for
the possible future (that I am not quite
permitted - I suppose you its no pride
for I know few things more sweet than
to accept of those we love; if only we
have sufficient real trust & love & to
make it quite right & equal - for I feel
real love is such a great thing, that it sur-
passes all inequalities in other outward
benefits - Only I can't help feeling thankful
to know that at what little I have now is
enough (of course with merely my quiet sim-
ple tastes & ways) to quite support me when
in Natal, besides paying my rightful share
of our house rent, or any other expense
such as that of rec'd by dear sister Mary
into our house - which we understood (don't
I I mean) jointly, when we set up house
keeping together - (besides the hope of abt 1/2 as
much more by & by in the future when the
time has past for which it belongs to other)
it can be a help to the one I love too - as least
Please don't laugh at me. my dear dear friend
for telling you all this - but I think that my
little stock (about £ 3,000, which being only invested
in the English funds, gives of course a very
low interest, viz 3 per cent -) may be a help
as much as it is to your feeling what you speak
of - not so wrong, rash or unwise as for as
go back now to end of older letter as I thought the above