

it was a perfectly unpersonal subject, merely as a matter of theoretical speculation or belief - was a task I did not then feel equal to - for I was very weak & poorly just at that mail's time - & an extra anxious thought or striving would have knocked me down again & ~~possibly~~ disabled me from ^{being able} ~~even~~ finishing to you - besides performing my other mail duties towards dear Louis & others -

I merely say this because while fully so keenly sorry that by my short & unpleasant letter that time, I caused you so much disappointment & I fear pain too ~~dear~~ yet when I try to calmly look back, think it all over; I can scarcely see how it could have been different, unless I'd been well or unless I'd known of what in your next dear letter would more than explain & establish all you said in that one -

You will have seen too how difficult I felt it to answer that part of your letter, because even in the real answer which I did try to write to it in the course of Dec - I just stuck fast again when I got to that place - For while seeing that there was some truth in what you said about long engagements, at least as regarded many kinds of people ^{circumstances} - ~~yet~~ I did not like to acknowledge that without also saying any other belief ^{at} ~~it~~ too - I think people should be ^{do} ~~to~~ ^{care} ~~take~~

entirely mistrust themselves but entirely trust each other - & that if they really do love & do trust each other, that no separation, however long, if borne for the sake of right, can hurt them - tho' very painful it often must be - but the pain is not from it - their engagement I mean - but from the want of the joy & full comfort & support, & full oneness, which being quite together & giving them - they are far happier with their engagement, which gives them the right to each other's ^{full} love & confidence, than they could ever be without it - It is the want of more, not of less - that they feel so keenly - I speak now what was my belief then, but is now proved to me to be true by personal experience - It is true it is young days yet to talk for two months have not passed since I first began my life to be young - I have also from the peculiar circumstances of our case, made it a duty to tell none of my family in England of it until after your next letter shall have reached me - I have had none of the many wearying advice, observations, praises, blames, & set at set - which I fear most people, especially girls, have but too often to contend with - & ah, if they are not too accustomed to decide important points in a given time for themselves - I have not also a very full love & trust in the one they are just engaged to - must be a very difficult to bear quite unshaken in a way from those they've been used perhaps all their lives to look up to & love - Yes I even believe that to me this quiet

waiting time, alone as it were with
you, before God - has been a great help
& strengthener to get to feel quite one with
you in all love & trust - & that now I may
reasonably hope to hear unmoved any of
the trying things, wh. letting my relations know
of this & great happiness, may help bring
me - I dare say I misjudge them - & that
they will be far more love & sympathy
- things & thoughtful for my feelings at it
than I yet dare to expect - But they
have after so much misunderstanding & misjudg-
ment as all may things - things I mean wh.
were not within the range of their
experience - & by so doing caused us such
pain - that I quite shrink now from
opening any possibility of their so doing -
There is one of my dear Mother's brothers
the eldest one - an Uncle Maria Duke
of whom you may have heard me say
who is quite different to the rest
& understands everything as I do
intuitively - & should I have the oppor-
-tunity of telling him viva voce at least
if I could manage to say what I would
to him all it but I'm often too shy
& nervous ever with him, dear
him as he is - to do so - or ever be
able to write what I wish when tell
him - I don't doubt his real helpful-
love - sympathy able this either -
there is too that youngest sister of
my poor father - of whom I've heard

11 Bloomfield Terrace Pimlico - S.W.
BC 151 CB 15
Monday evening Feb 24 - 1862

My own dearest friend

How I am longing for your next
letter I can't say - so greatly indeed that that
feeling is more present with me than even
the gladness & thankfulness wh. I do ^{indeed} ~~feel~~
~~actually~~ really - greatly feel for your dear
letter of Jan 19th wh. has just reached me -
The mail came so unusually early this month
to my unexpected delight - I saw my dear
letter last Saturday afternoon - the 22nd - little more
than a month since you posted it -
But I am so very grieved & heart to think of
all your painful suspense & anxiety - wh. by
a longer & different, that is to say a real an-
swer to that dear long letter of yours wh. reached
me at Coalbrook end of Nov - I must have pre-
sented - had I only known - But that is
it; I could scarcely have given a real heart's
answer to it wh. I did know - For it
touched on so many deep-down subjects, &
had to do with corners of my heart that I'd
hardly dared touch into since your letter wh.
reached me early in Oct - had given me
such a shock - at least that I dared not
interrogate - For this I felt & keenly - what
those two next letters might & should mean
really did mean - yet you with feel I'd
hardly answer that part of them with
out perfect certainty you did so mean
them - And to do so truly - yet all as

But to return to what we were ^{namely} ~~the~~ of
long engagements - I know I feel quite dif-
ferent since I had the assurance of your
dear love & trust - so much happier &
braver & stronger than I scarcely know
myself - the world seems another place
to me now - & life & death quite dif-
ferent things too I feel as if the one part
of me - my soul I mean - w^d not mind
death or anythg if only we c^d both keep
quite to our love & duty to our Maker &
each other - 'Lost mind' is a w^rong term
for of course such things must be indeed
most deeply painful ever at best - but
I mean as if I c^d be there without
real misery & despair - looking & trusting
that after our lives here we should
meet again if He thought best - & if
we did not it ^{that} we ^{to us both} be for real best be-
cause it 'was his will - we must
be best - because though I can't but
feel the truth of what you say w^t
not try to conceive of God at all
because we can do so inadequately
& therefore our lower ^{our} ^{strength} ^{the} at-
tempt - & I cannot but believe
that he is perfect love & perfect
wisdom - whatever else he may
or not, he ^{or however} ^{well} ^{we} ^{are} ^{very} ^{certainly} know of him -
and I don't feel my dearest friend as if
you either will be made of the more
anxious or tried - when you know that
that I have accepted your dear love

& quite give you mine too - I can't
but believe it with heart & will
of the comfort & gladness to you w^t
it has been & is now to me - I do
I don't disapprove of even proposals
long engagements - for I think if peo-
ple are really fitted to become one at
all - they may dare months or years of
distant separation if then duty bids
it - & be none the less happy for an en-
gagement - but on the contrary
much the ~~more~~ so - for I do think
that the love & trust w^t are to last
a lifetime sh^d be strong enough to
stand such a test as this - I mean
I do not advocate long engagements
I mean not for their own sake -
for I think if people do not love & can
not trust each other sufficiently to
marry at once if they rightly may; that
they perhaps far better not think of it at
all - & I don't advocate them as some
do, as a thing to try - prove each other
love & character & c^t - But merely
think that they are no real right ob-
stacle to tell any one you love her -
if you are sure you truly ~~do~~ do so - & have
reason to hope her with be the same -
My dearest, I feel that I w^d rather be
your nearest & dearest helper & comfort-
er & have you for mine, even if an in-
fused inevitable fate were to pre-
vent us ever seeing one another again

in this life - if only we had the
blessed comfort of even the meagre
interchange of thoughts that letters
than have any other fate who the world
I offer me - Mind, this is not girlish
highflown exaggeration - but my real
deep feeling & belief - to which trust in
God I do one day if we both will
pledge myself before him & man too -

I have never happened to meet with "Hopes-
fears" - but I don't think it seems a fair
specimen of that subject - nor can I quite
understand now the lady I really care
for both at once - at least in the one
way - But we won't trouble our minds
or time with her now especially as I shall
go only introduced ^{as} illustrating in part
one view of the case - as a help to intro-
-duce apropos of her some subjects we
you wish to speak on, but perhaps felt
some difficulty or acuity, in doing so quite
'apropos des autres' as the French say - or rather
apropos of something in your own mind - that
you did not choose to tell me just then
But here - nearly nine o'clock come - my
usual bed time - & as the table
must be cleared of my papers as it will
be wanted for ^{the others} supper - so goodnight to
tonight my own dearest friend -

your affec-
tionate

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times spoken to you in a letter, who
can also understand & enter into all
things regarding us in the most thorough
way - & there is one dear
sister of my mother's my favourite among
them of whom I told you & who I think
with chiefly when I was in England
who I think with too - as she is nearly
as real as dear Aunt Elizabeth - And
I hope almost that it will be at her
house that I get the glad news which
I hope next mail may bring me - for
Mrs I way to have gone straight to
her on land in England - yet for
one cause or another I've never reached
her yet - she lives at Brighton as
yet - & I'm hoping to go to her when
I leave this place about the 17th of
next month - unless I should call at
Coaldon (the Byrons) on my way -
I think they will want me to do -
both to see them again & also to get
my colored things as the Court moving
will be just ending then - It has
of course been a longer one than usual
at this time - at all events a deeper
& nearly all the ladies one sees are
still in black - As you see I don't
yet quite know my future plans I have
thou for next month - & after ones
will greatly depend on your next letter

last Thursday morning as I rushed off to be
for all once more to seize upon the
opportunity, & fortunately did get taken
but they never allow one to see the nega-
tives there - so I have as yet no idea of
how it will turn out - Only I did ~~it~~ ^{do} ~~it~~ ^{do}
& hard too - to sit as naturally - quietly as
I did - But you know (if you have ever
been taken) how almost impossible it is
to ~~get~~ look natural when you have to keep
your eyes fixed in any particular direction
& dare not move at all - I did so want
it to be nice for you, that I dared not quite
sit any how (as you will see I did in that one
taken at Worcester, if you get it also)
this merit) seeing what a doubtful up & down
looking likeness it had helped to make it
I just went in the dress I always wear if
going out or staying anywhere, so long as this
Court morning shall last - as you see its
just one ^{mean} as I constantly am now -
I mean I didn't dress up on any thing - for
that is what I see such a horror of in
either photographs or reality -
Now you know I shall expect to hear your
most entire & candid opinion of ~~either~~
both these likenesses - however unfavour-
able it may be - I believe its not va-
nity that makes me care so much a-
bout them - for tho' I know I was ~~very~~
vain once, yet I trust it is a feeling
has greatly lost ground for several years
past, & more than ever lately - I think
now, that I only really care all a look
when I'm with those I really love - es-
pecially - & that ~~the~~ ^{the} thing that makes me long

to to have as nice a likeness as I truly
can - to send you - But I must clear away
my trifles away now, as the clock warns
me that this table will be wanted directly,
& I can't work with up stones - ^{be night} so good bye
for tonight my dearest one -

Thursday Evening Feb 27th Last Evening paper
without my being able to write a word here -
I had so many English letters or notes to write
ready for post early today - as now it is decided
that I soon leave London, I ~~found~~ ^{found} it necessary
to write all notes with reference to my business
I went to do while in town without delay - so
as to get the answers soon - & this evening a
fresh batch have arisen to be attended to -
so here it is, nearly time to clear this table, be-
fore I at last come for a few minutes to you -
So day has been taken up with going to Aunt
Harriett's, one of my Mother's sisters - & who has al-
ways meant most kindly to me - & acted ~~as~~ ^{as} too
as far as she can understand all things concerning
me - just is not very far however, & so she has caused
me needless pain since I've been in England by
some little things, not one however not worth tak-
ing up either of our time by recounting here - I only
mention it at all as ^{now} explaining what I was go-
ing to say, that she is I think the one of my dear Mother's
sisters that I care the least for - & therefore did
not accept her kind offer to come - remain in Ches-
ter for as long as I needed to be near Dr. Keppel,
instead of her, the expense of staying on here -
but she was kind enough to wish me to do -
I had meant fully to spend today in writing - & to that
end to have a fire in a new room - but a little
bit of note came from her this morning to say that
Aunt Cary / Lady Dundas - one of my Mother's eldest
sisters who has been always a dear real Aunt to
us girls - but whom we see not so much
of because her husband - the quite

him in his way, has never seemed to feel
much like an Uncle to any of the Cousinhood.
I suppose we have never stayed much at Queens
bury villa (Richmond) - & you know how
when any one is married & settled in life
you seldom get to know them very inti-
mately, ~~even~~ if near relations, if they are
very much older than yourself & you never
happen to have stayed in their house -
I'm very glad dear Aunt Cary has not asked
me this time as I don't like Sir John
sufficiently to feel at ease in staying in
his house & yet it wd be very painful
& difficult to refuse because I can really
for her - I don't know whether we ever
talked on that subject but I'm a great
feeling against accepting any one's hospitality
whom I do not really like or respect - & whom
I shd not be really pleased to welcome in
my own home - ^{for their own sakes - for my own & for the sake of} Sir John is an "old"
woman & not a nice one either - I merely
use this term in its generally accepted
signification when thus applied to a man,
& not in its real sense at all - For I
think good true old age ^{mental &} very dear to all
who have right feeling - & I happen to have
an especial tenderness for old women,
from the way they remind me of dear
Grandmother / my mother's mother I mean
in their patience perhaps or helplessness -
or what not - & she was such a very real
dear Grandmother to us - seeming to give
us quite dear mother's place and rights
in her stead -

Sunday afternoon 28th - I was interrupted here last
night & now hope to get on a little if any nobody

3rd

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Tuesday night Feb 25th - Two new comers have
arrived here today & been talking so perseveringly
this evening that here it's nearly 1/2 past 8 & I
fore I begin again to write to you - which I've
been longing to do as you can fancy - But I've had
so many English letters to write the last 2 days
apropos of my news from Natal - to tell several
who not have expected letters from dear old
how it was, ~~that~~ ^{they} had not been able to write
owing to that sharp attack of illness she had
in Dec^r - & which I think she must have made
comparatively light of in her letters to you -
& this has taken up all my writing time &
strength during the days - & ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} the
evenings are so short for all I have to say -
Tomorrow too must I fear be all taken
up by a needful expedition into London
to see Dr. Knapp - get my photograph (which I
had taken last week - but have not seen
yet) I do hope it will not be a horrid one
because I shd not like to send it you if it
is ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{is} I fear that the copy of the best, or
rather perhaps one ought to say least bad
of those I had taken last November, ^{in Worcester} but
I've written to try & get from Worcester
in time for this mail - may perhaps
not reach me in time - However then
and may days yet not with still hope
I went 3 days ^{last} ^{to} the Panther before I'd
get it done - ^{very} new one I mean -
For you know perhaps what weather
naturally belongs to this month - at
least in London - & we have had a
real foggy February - Happily however
the sun came out for a little while

little English country parsonage - I decide
the pleasure of going there without delay, for
I always fear if any thing puts off going to see
dear Aunt Charlotte, that it may be too late for
for she must be nearer 70 now than 60 - 29th gets
weaker every year - It is that is where you are
to think of me as being (or rather having been) for
you with not get this at earliest till just as
I am leaving it / until 8th April - Then I go
I don't know where - Perhaps the demons
(that is Aunt Fanny's married name) may have
settled themselves in another house in Bright-
on / they are gone all going up there presently
by that time if so, prevent me to go there - but
I won't take up space & time by perhapses
Oh I was going to say that I'm glad to be going into
Kent, then to Brighton in March - as the latter
is said to be so cold there - & tho' I had not mind
it that, & persuaded Dr. Keppel to let me just
try it, as cold weather seems to always make
me feel so much stronger now - yet then last
few days' weather last week have given me some
rheumatism - so I see the wisdom of his first
great decision at to my going there just now - & so
am very glad circumstances have changed
plans - for it is ^{now} ~~indeed~~ tiresome just to have
gone, & then had to run away again di-
rectly - Oh the Herchels! I mean Sir John
Herchels family who was astronomer royal at
the Cape of Good Hope (county house is in Dutch Henrys
parish - only a few hundred yds from the Parso-
nage indeed - & if they are there just now
I expect great pleasure from seeing a little
of them - They are such a nice & intellect-
ual family - & used to be very kind & friendly to
Louis where she stayed so much at Haver-
hurst (which is the name of which it's parish) while
last in England
But before being the subject of Aunt's & Uncle's
I must just say that I remember last night
that I'd misstated all not having been asked

to Queensberry Villa since I arrived in England
for Aunt Cary did ask me to go there with Aunt
Julia once for a week, while Uncle Thomas (that
is Mr. Byron and Julia's husband) - who is also
my 2^d cousin as well as half uncle - because he
was Aunt Julia's first cousin before he married
her - I like him very much as tho' prejudiced on
some points, yet he is remarkably liberal
minded on others, besides he's very really kind &
friendly to me too / was away somewhere shoot-
ing - but it was just as I had first gone to
Coalston & we both felt that we'd rather
stay there quietly, & enjoy very each other really
after a long separation of 7 years - so there
was a most easy & amiable motive for
refusing - I don't know how relations-
ships may be in your country - but in England
I find Aunt's & Uncle's generally neither felt to
be near or dear to their nephews & nieces - so
this is only to explain how we came for ours
I must tell you (if I never did so before) I
can't clearly remember, tho' I find every one
of my Mother's brothers & sisters have been most
kind & loving to us girls - & treat us far more
as tho' we were their own children, than
only nieces - You know it was with one
or other of them that we lived all the time
we were last in England - that is when we
were not staying with dear Grandma her
self - for her house in Eaton Place was al-
ways our head quarters - And when you
have experienced such great & warm kind-
ness from people for a long time, like it was
from Aug 1851 when we landed from our
home ward voyage - to Jan 1855 when we
sailed again with our father (who had
come to England unexpectedly in the
previous June) it makes ones long grate-
tude to them very deep - & this is why I talk
so much to you all the time - I mean because
they are many of them so near & dear to me -

I feel as if you wish care to hear all those I
love, especially as they are also those with whom I
am, & shall be, so mixed up so long as I am
in England - & ever when I was away on my tra-
vels into Staffordshire, Cheshire & etc. - I often
heard from them - & indeed used to refer all
my plans to dear Aunt Fanny's approval
first - for she had always been like a second
mother to me when I was last in England - &
it was to her love & care that I am chiefly
trusting now when she advised me to
venture alone to England this time -
After all - I am so looking forward to & yet dread-
ing able to tell my dear Mother's ^{new} relations, of my hap-
piness after next mail shall as I hope have re-
ceived it to me - For I can't tell you how uncon-
fortable the being with them yesterday was to me
in one way - I mean from the feeling of this con-
cealed thing, which yet is constantly in my thoughts
& affects not only them but yourself too - & will
exchange my whole future - Not that I think
I was wrong in deciding to say so long of them, un-
til the answer to my father's letter shall have come -
I think the circumstances of our case de-^{mand}
ed it - because I should not choose to enter into
our most private thoughts - feeling to any one - &
without so doing they are naturally bound mis-
judged you had your answer been what I then
felt just possible it not be - the fervently
hoping it not - Still I felt you'd ever refuse
not to accept a poor weak love (like I then
knew in all the conflict & confusion of feelings
which your dear letter had raised in me) and be
all I had towards you - for I do fear in the
which we so vitally affect both our entire future
him deciding at all wrong - & therefore tries
in all ways to see as it were the minimum
of my love for you - for fear of supplanting ^{more}
than it was, in the then yet existence

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nobody comes to call - for I've got a fire in my
bed room - ^{have} that established myself there to write
this morning was taken up by more English letters
~~that~~ seems as if there is to be no end to those
I have to write just at mail time -
I was trying to tell you as to what had occupied my time
yesterday but had to digress ^{much} to explain ^{how} those
~~people~~ were that I spoke of - Aunt Julia - the
nice kind dear little Aunt ~~at~~ whose house I
was staying when I wrote to you in Decr (Jan) (Coul-
don) - is just now staying with Aunt Fanny & the
both were coming to London yesterday - to ^{meet} ~~visit~~
at Aunt Harriet's - ~~she~~ she kindly asked me to come
too & meet them - which was a chance I did
not like to miss - as besides the pleasure of it,
(for I like dear Aunt Julia very much & Aunt
Fanny a good deal) I needed to see Aunt Julia
to settle about coming again to Coulton for a
few days, directly. I have this - & it's now
as good as settled that I leave here on the 12th
March & stay at Coulton till the following Mon-
day the 19th when I go into Kent (instead of
to Brighton to that very favourite Aunt) to
spend all 3 weeks or more with another
brother & sister of Mamma's - Her eldest
sister, who is the only one of them who never
married - she is a very dear kind one - tho'
I do not personally know quite so much of
her as of Aunt Fanny (the one at Brighton
you know; but I fear you will be quite sur-
prised amongst ~~their~~ their names) - yet I care
for her very much - she is a great invalid
& has been for almost the last 20 years
with her only single brother who is a clergy-
man the one that I used to stand in great
awe of from his excessively proper kind
of goodness - but I met him in London a week
or two since & he was so kind - nice & real
to me, that I now look forward to seeing
more of him again in his own home
It is in a very pretty part of Kent - a regular

you were likely to get it - my letter I mean -
the of the day when you would be posty & answer
to it to me - possibly the one on
wh I recd the letter - You must not be
anxious all of health please dearest for I have
much better acct's to give you of it this mail.
I'm feeling really & essentially better - & what is more,
on the road to be far better still, I trust even my
boy - for besides the medicines wh Dr Russell
has been able constantly to give me ^{also} the
increased knowledge, wh seeing me so much
must have given him of my health & strength, &
want thereof - I feel that this time near
him has been of great benefit to my chance
of getting well sooner - by the way it has taught
me many things wh I must or must not do.
for of health's sake - & wh it will make
comparatively easy to go on being careful
about when I go back to stay among relations
or friends again - now that I know them
to be of real consequence - for all have
been so kind & helpful for me that it's
only by my own fault that I am not taking
all proper rest - precaution even when
I went among them soon after landing -
but you know how very uncomfortable
it makes one feel to do or forbear
things - wh tho' you ^{take a full} ^{of} ^{balance}
guess wh be better for your health - get on
and ^{soon} ^{of it} ^{so} ^{don't} ^{like} ^{to} ^{give} ^{trouble}
or seem either ^{fatally} ^{or} ^{giving} ^{way} - all the
Dr Russell tells me that he has no reason
why I may not be ready to sail next October
permanently restored to health - but that
if I go soon wh I was asking him, also
in care of next acct's of dear Louie

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of feeling of in return for your whole heart -
so had any right to take back your words on
that ground alone - besides the other ones -
I mean all the insanity wh I fear to be some
what in my father's family - But tho' I know
your decision on either of these grounds wh be
right before God - were it to be that you felt
it right for us to continue to be not more
than simple friends - tho dear ones - yet I wd
not feel at all sure that others wd see it thus
may too, especially any who are accustomed
to think as much of some conventional
rights or customs as of the dear ones - if
not more - & indeed without their know-
ing my things wh I wd feel as I wd be propen-
to speak of to any except such as Louie or my
dearest Aunt of all the little ones on my father's
side I've told you of often, who wd ^{be} ^{brother} ^{of}
them fully enter into the way we were situated
& all that that involve - they could not fairly
judge of any thing - & so must come to wrong con-
clusions - as few people are wise enough
to come to ^{to} ^{make} ^{them} ^{wise} ^{enough} ^{to} ^{come} ^{to} ^{now} ^{where} ^{they} ^{cannot} ^{have} ^{sup}
sufficient data to come to a rightly fair one -
But I am so thankful that owing to this
need of being under Dr Russell's immediate in-
fluence for a while ~~that~~ I have had the
power of being away from them all these
past two months - & that I shall now
have so little time to wait after rejoin-
ing them before your longed for letter comes -
For tho' my longing for it will be slightly
dashed with dread sometimes - yet I do
not in soberer moments really antici-

anticipate that it will be other than to
confirm our engagement - because I think
that yr love for me will have made you
clear sighted & you will have seen in my
answer how I really did care for you - &
that it was perhaps from the very depths
of it that I was so troubled lest it should
not be the love it ought, for your sake
still more than for your own - & so on that
head I scarcely fear your decision - & on the
other ~~ground~~ I do not much because I think
you are a person capable to weigh things
without being carried away by the nameless hor-
ror ^{disgust} or any suspicion of inherited insanity
brings to some minds - & I do not myself be-
lieve that it is more than the slightest
probability as regards ~~as~~ girls - especially as to
~~possess~~ & me - even if it amounts to that -
so that I felt it a duty to tell you all about it
yet I don't feel as if that will make any dif-
ference to our future relations to each other -
By looking forward to telling them is great &
I dread but little - for even ~~if~~ it exposes
me to as painful because ununderstanding
remarks or questions from any of the less
large minded & hearted among them - still the
relief of being quite open towards them will
fully make up for that - & I feel now
almost deceitful when I see them - as I told
you apropos of yesterday - But I trust
you won't forget dearest that this is en-
tirely of your own causing - or rather circum-
stances - I mean that you have had as
share in it - for you left me free as

to speak of it as I would - This with per-
haps strikes you a great contrast to what I said
in that same letter of perhaps not mentioning
our engagement, should it be one, to my relations
perhaps for some time - but I wrote then
in great bewilderment of feeling as to many things
& I had not realized how daily hourly my hopes
for future to be present with me & its great
effect on my daily life & thoughts - & so of course
I did not picture how constrained & almost un-
true it would make me feel to with those who
who are so nearly related to me - & dear too, with
this one great little hope concealed -
I know you will feel I am right in this -
Another ~~of~~ perhaps is that I have found
several of them so much more lovingly
understanding in their dealings with me than
I'd ever thought possible for minds to be that
have had their bringing up & quiet lives - that
this makes me hope for more love sym-
pathy when I tell them ~~of my~~ gladness, than
I should before have dared expect - & at all
events for less misunderstanding or mistrust
of any thing - but I must be down for a
tiny bit just to prevent my back beginning to ache
really - & later - for last mail time I found
it did not answer really to let it get to that. I
mean even as regards achieving the letters I write
I - for its after effects were such that the follow-
ing morning I was brogged for it to write at all -
so think now that it really expedites my dear
letters more - if I'm wise & deal in time -
So return to your last dear letter - I've been
thinking with gladness how the painful suspense
you were in when writing it must have been ended
by the time it reached me - indeed a week or
more before that is the pleasure in even
tolerable times - I that so of you each day that

think so much of trying to get well -
For I suppose illness always to some de-
gree affects one's mind & temper at least I
know by sad experience how mine has - &
I do so dread an unsound mind & feelings - as the
sequel to an unhealthy physical condition
I dare say tho' that the kind of illness I have
had may necessarily effect both far more
than most other forms of sickness do -
For it is as very much the want of healthy
nervous power which is the cause of all my
weakness - much of my pain - at least
as I gather from what Dr. Knapp tells me
whenever I think on the subject - which
is not often, for I know he is trying his
very best to help me to get back my pre-
cious health - ^{as soon as possible} so feel chary of asking him
questions which can in no way help much
towards it - & of course take up time - &
I feel the more particular on this point
because he is as very nice & right all
round in the least hazy of things &
will always let me stay as long as I like -
afterward patiently asks whether there is
not any more I wish to speak of - & one
does appreciate this in a man who is
so very busy as he is - & whose time must
be so precious both to him self - his
patients for I know he is a very clever
Dr. (this of course from others - quite dis-
interested people - but you don't know
how very such corroborations of my ideas
of his skill I'm almost daily meeting
with by chance - or lately to people who
nearly hear him talk -) Besides of
course all that he can spare for home
being so prized by this dear wife & three

very nice young girls that he has - how
that I've got to know the inner side of
Mrs. Knapp so to speak - I mean the one
which her friends see - I like her very much -
more than any woman I have known except
two or three - It's a pleasure to me to think
of her - Dr. Knapp - for they seem to be one
of the very few people I've ever met with
who are really one - I mean on the highest
kind of way - where one feels that marriage
was meant to be - & that the earthly cere-
mony is meant to symbolize & consecrate
or rather ratify, for I feel it cannot make
that holy which is not already so -
You don't know what a loving welcome
she always gives me there - & I prize her
more because she's not at all that kind of
person who rushes forth welcomes which she
does not feel; this seems to be towards con-
parative few - but increases both my
surprise at it, & appreciation of it & my
thankfulness that she should find any
in me to like enough to let her do so -
You know that day I told you about when hearing
Mr. Maurice was to be at their house that evening
I said something to Dr. Knapp to explain what I had
to speak more of you than I had done or had
meant to do - both because of not intruding the sub-
ject on him & also because of feeling the first know-
ledge of it to be due to those of my brother's family who
have always tried so to supply her place to us - ex-
cept just that tiny mention which I felt owing
to Dr. Knapp as a way to tell him - Of course
I did not say anything about mentioning it to Mrs.
Knapp whom I did not know so well then
having only seen her in company except just
the few passing moments the first and I never went there
because I had that trust in him from what I

seen of his very nice mind & ways that he
w^d not tell her if he ought not - & if she was a
real wife of course he both w^d & ought -
A few days after that ^{1st of course} (when I ^{for the first time as my wife then} ~~only~~ ^{in company} ~~she~~ ^I went there one afternoon for
company & found her at home & alone - & she
then said a few very kind words of congratula-
tion to me - & this, the first of any kind wh I've
had, or could have had - was very sweet to me -
& once or twice since in times we've been
quietly alone together when I've gone early &
been kept to dinner - she's said a few very
real helping words in reference to my new glad-
ness - hopes - of that that loving earnest but
unobtrusive mind wh is ^{the} ~~one~~ ^{one}, that one
can lean on such a subject - & that instead of
quite shunning from, as a other w^d make
you - you can feel to be a real help & com-
fort - She clearly knows as much of how
we are situated then I at first told Dr. Prudden - just
nearly that there was this cause for my hopes & glad-
ness but that I did not know quite certainly
at it till March mail had come -
& that therefore I'd say nothing at it to a family
until after that time - For besides, feel my
things for too sacred to speak of to any but Louis
(I mean ~~any~~ ^{beside} you) I sh^d also be chary of
obtruding my own private affairs upon him
& not on wh one so fully occupied by all
the helpful loving work wh she's daily en-
gaged in - first for her husband - his children
& then for friends or any one who need help
but here is come supper - wh says take me
before I get as cold as any th^g else in this
bitter East wind - so I shall just do so
before saying the next th^g I wanted to say
to you -

6 BC 151 C 8115
sh^d not be good, I sh^d wish to say all I have
already gained - besides of course the hope
of permanent restoration to real health -
He said it was just like any one who is
recovery from brain fever & is suffered
to begin mental work again too soon -
I've an analagous to this in case & con-
sequences - wh was the way in wh he used
the example - & I feel that he is per-
fectly correct in his opinion - & therefore
of course with not think of doing any th^g
rashly wh may risk so great a slipping
as regaining my lost good health - Though
if any real duty such as you or Louis be-
ing ill, or in any other way needing me, sh^d
call me back before the time that it seems
necessary to wait to regain my health - I w^d
unhesitatingly & unfeigningly go - for I do
feel that where higher duties are involved
one may safely risk lower ones, & leave
the consequences of all trusting in our
maker's hands - believing that he will
in some way be able to see, ^{either} ~~over~~ them, or
that seems to me more probable as it
from all one learns of the physical world
& its laws one seems to act independently of the
others - or rather I sh^d say perhaps in submis-
sion to them - a moral, mental, & physical,
seeing all to be fulfilled strictly - I had also more
said inexorably -) or give one the will
& power to rightly bear the natural con-
sequences of their infringement - & it
the want of this - I mean the power to rightly
bear all this wh I do fear & wh makes me

of three who dear Old Mr. Lolly had taken
of me at Worcester last October - as I
was passing thro' it with him on my way
from Staffordshire to Bromsgrove -
I think that is a very natural one too - at
least of what I was then - for I do feel ^{much} changed
even in appearance these last
two months - I don't think one can
have a deep joy & much sudden anxiety
(tho' the sufferer you know) for many weeks
without its more or less settling its stamp
on the face too - But its singular to me
how much both these portraits, espe-
cially the older one, remind me of my little
sister Julia - I do not mean I was so like
her - really if I do not with that smaller
one as where I not know a trifle if I
should have most being pronounced upon it
as Julia's likeness & wonder how it had
come there - You know I count upon
receiving yr candid opinion on them both - I
mean as to whether you like them like me the
one you knew last Christmas - as soon as you
re quite time to give it - For tho' the one
front of me (the greed, one) felt disappointed
I at only see under two sheets in yr dear hand
instead of the deliciously long letter that for
some months past I've always seen - yet the
other & a more real one feels very glad that
you should treat me so like a real loving friend
& not write to me a bit more than you
were quite able - I confess I shall hope
in future months to receive longer letters
or rather chats - for when we belong to each
other as I trust you will soon feel to be the
case, even if you have not ^{already} renewed yr
letters reached you - I shall hope you will
just as every day or evening send me two or three
lines about yr thoughts, & days work & trials.
But even dearest when ^{not} both physically
& mentally the thing you ^{most} enjoy doing -

Oh I know I was very late in getting ac-
tually healthy - I was trying to give you a correct
idea of what I gather from Dr. Thapell's all of ill-
ness - As near as my ~~stupid~~ words can put it it
seems to be that its exhaustion of the nervous
or vital ~~forces~~ that I've suffered from - & do
still in a measure - & I can well believe it - &
you wd too did you know our frail ~~some~~ life
its very hard work & insufficient food either as
to nourishment or quantity - chiefly the former
tho' I have at times (in common with dear Jane too)
known what it was to be very hungry & yet feel
it wrong to take what I satisfy thirst - & added
to this its constantly recurring cruel trials both
to mind & feelings - & to crowd all our almost
utter ignorance of all the laws of health & life
& the duties which they enjoin - You must not
blame our poor father for this - this last tho' I
mean - tho' I fear I cannot say as much on all
the other points - for both the ~~often~~ daily hair
& misery - & well as the great poverty - I must ad-
mit to be almost entirely his doing poor fellows
guenous as it is to have to say it even to you my
most dear friend & comforter -
But coming as we then did fresh from the high
pure motives & feelings of my mother's family &
from the constant example of their daily unself-
ish, striving lives - I mean striving for what they be-
lieved to be best & highest, & tho' it done they so I think
erringly - & then suddenly thrown into a house
in which every opposite quality reigned - you can
fancy how very difficult it was to at all take
care of ones self - because so long as one at all
strived to be different to the home we found on
ourselves in I mean in keeping to highest right & duty
instead of sinking into thorough selfishness &
self-indulgence - & to a low standard of truth
honor justice purity & abhorring every other thing
one really can suffer - so long did ^{an} even ^{seeing}
approach to it seem a thing to be dreaded
worse than death - & so one got to look on it
as a large selfish action to rest when tired
& almost ^{count} to go to bed when the time came if one
could by any possibility drag a weary mind

body abt as long, so long as any work re-
mained to be done - whether it were of the
more urgent daily needed kind and as iron
is folding - mending Thursdays or Sundays clothes
cl at at - or even of the ^{heavy} always-on-hand, sort
like cutting out making - tidying cleaning cl at at.
And as thank God we were helped & kept by
him from ever quite sinking to the level of
their moral standard with whom we lived
so this constant striving to act up to what we
poor little moles then believed to be right, &
it was in our deplorable of nature's physical
barns of w^t we were so ignorant - went on
two - for years & years - until one after an-
other both our healths broke down so
completely that we had to give in - the
cause it was become a physical impos-
sibility to do the work of various kinds we
were used - & soon after this we were turned
out of our poor father's house by himself -
& so both the need - indeed app^r turn to
such work there was taken from us -
But by this time we were in such a state
of bad health thro' all the accumulated con-
sequences of our past lives work & trials we
last had especially been very sore - that
we were not able even to do the tiny and
of cooking & cleaning required to keep our own
little cottage - two belms as should have been
& so just used to have to let things go undressed
& in a straightened & unattended - in our
house - except as far as the positive needs of
our both required for health & cleanliness -
to keep one room a little nice for our few
real friends - where our old friends used to
after we at first not cooked things because
we couldn't - so let the Kafir do them, but
may be of himself - we two began life
as we were on our own acct. on 11th Novem-
ber 1859. More than two years ago you
see

7 BC 151 CB 15
After all that I did not return here
because really we tried that it was to get
about what I did - but a bad cold & sore throat
kept me awake much of night - & in bed till
late this morning & so it is late in afternoon
before I can write you more a little of all the
may things I want to say to you dearest - for I've
had a long visit from dear Mrs Fisher since
divine - & she has been very poorly with quinsy
sore throat & unable to get to see me for the
last 3 weeks so I liked to try cheer her up as
much as possible from this - she has written
to you - with letter I mean to enclose in this
so that she will get it soon & if not post re-
sponding - I hope you don't mind a more
official looking envelope - but I daresent
omit much weight of paper in the small
envelopes for fear of its wearing thin - this
March 1st you know - sadly near mail
day - & not off down of air that ought to go by this
one - oh I have my new photograph - & am
rejoiced by its appearance - for it not have
been more disagreeable looking - & tho' you will
see I am making rather a funny face in it - at
least it seems to me - but then you know
of course I can't see my own face like others do
& fancy that was just the effect of the stronger light
then I'm dark used to - & also a little natural over-
suspicious - we both together have rather set the
lover part of my face quivering - But dear Mrs
I think of other names for Miss Fisher you know
because she was always ^{loving} to be called
a general our lighted candle on the left) thinking
if we like me & the grey sister Miss Webster
fond of whom I think I spoke to you in last
letter - says the same - I know both of them
well in their real opinion all at
I send you the best of the two I had taken last
week at least that we are also considered so
the other is for dear John to go also by the
mail so you will be able to compare open
views - & I also send you a copy of the musical

Come ever away from all of them dearest
ones to try - I mean merely on the score of
health - for its other results none but you
dearest could make me regret, who I know
never will -

It may seem strange to you that during that
long year, with by ourselves we did not re-
cover at least in some measure our health
& strength - but we I got into that thoroughly
weak state, that the least thing which painfully
affected our minds, told us directly on our
physical health & poor weakened bodies -
that with ^{the} almost constant anxieties
of one ^{or} another who we had daily
to hear there was no chance for just quiet
or rest - better food to recover us -

In the first place you can think how
the shock of being turned out of a house by
our own father, & one too whom we tried
faithfully to serve - help & comfort through
long weary years of work, lightened but too
seldom by any love or thought or kindness
from himself - & that too not because
we had done or were doing wrong - but ^{and} ~~and~~
from the irritation of feeling he had long indulged
in towards us, ~~because~~ at one time he
came we did not do a plainly mean &
dishonourable thing perhaps even a dis-
honourable one - at another because we neither
did nor quietly sit by to hear our dear
brother's sisters mother & brother who had all
been not only every thing we could think of in the
way of true love - kindness to us - but also
ever most kind - forbearing & helping too to
wards our poor father - abused & their names
& memory insulted - & again at another
because we did not do what we thought

to be a wrong & no true kind help even to him
all our newly left money - I mean giving him
the capital - this was one of our last offences
but had been committed more than a year
before he expelled us - In justice to him
however I must also tell you that at the
time when he was most angry against us
he used to pour out those feelings to Mr Lloyd
who was naturally the only one he had to tell
them too in all their virulence - because
even when Fanny was not included in the
displeasure which of course she always was
whenever the wrong asked of us was one
as flagrant as to seem a greater sin to her
than that of disobeying a parent - if not rather
she has, or rather her unfortunately exag-
gerated a notion - even then she would
allow him to abuse us a good deal less
for presumption, still there were something
that even her gentle nature roused against
& so she used to leave the room I believe -
So all these angry feelings & unjust & most
untrue speeches all us were poured out to
her - & made such an impression ^{even} on her
weak mind that (Mr Lloyd I mean) that
nothing would afterwards remove it - & so per-
haps when his angry feelings which have subsided
thru the influence of time & the life that our
daily life gave to what he chose to think or
say of us - & thru perhaps the better side of
his nature - his memory of manner - it
was prevented by there always being this poor
angry little woman there - who was con-
stantly making aggravating speeches all us
& in every way that the cunning of her poor
little mad mind could suggest - trying (whether

conscious (or not God only knows) to let him against us & prevail on him to turn us out of house & home - I think too I were the object of her more active hatred & feel that - tho' I believe she cordially disliked Fanny Julia too - & I have been truly glad had all four been 'chopped' at 'the cold coup' - & so partly from that - partly from our having both come to see more forcibly than the others ^{that} that there are higher duties - even than to a parent - & that when his commands clashed with either truth justice grace glory or honor or what we felt to be our duty to God & our own souls - that they must be disregarded - tho' of course in the most gentle - respectful way that we could teach our sorely outraged feelings to act - & God alone knows how hard we tried - & what a very painful struggle it often was to stick to real right (that is what was the real right to us because we believed it to be - & I don't feel that ever this long time passed since has made me change in idea as to any of the principals that are the struggle for) when that clashed with his commands or even with - It happened that we two were the 1st to be turned out - They go to sea - but I fear my sentence to night are even more puzzling involved than usual - I only hope that the habit of deciphering old manuscripts with perhaps obscure means with

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& from that time to this the trying more or less constantly to undo the consequences of our past mistaken notions & actions & abate as far as our glimmering perception of real duty & of some of the laws of health will help us to do so. I mean to really rest & take all right care that we never take such for some foolishness & I think we still a little contented) of our health & use the best remedies we were within our reach. Yet you see with how apparently small fruit - for within a year - 1/4 of that same Exodus my health had got so bad as to make Lord Palmerston come to England try to get really well if I might indeed regain that sleep - thro' the good advice & thro' my desire to back & change of scene - ideas for mind & that involved - And I am truly grateful to my darling for so bravely & unselfishly making me leave her & come to try - for besides the one great blessing which doesn't seem thro' it I have met with - in you dear love & self - there are almost endless minor ones - as well as another large one - if as I trust may be the case the end for which I chiefly came shall be fulfilled & I return to Africa thoroughly restored to health & strength of mind & body - And I cannot but believe from the way in which I so rapidly got down into the dark house 3 months in total before this was decided on - that I should either have died or soon gone out of my mind - from utter weakness & nervousness & want of intellectual power both mental & other - so even should I not become so well as I hope I speak of it less as probable than as a mere possibility) I shall not regret having

I think in Cape San Carlos, it has
sincerely set with me ever since -
Because I know for a fact that is
has very often this - last year stopped
cold & wet at once - with out it
and inevitably have gone over to be
like this prevent once. But I think
I see you shake your head, & smile then
happily, & I'm not accusing you of
laughing at me, for I know you don't
think much of homeopathy - at least
you didn't -

later - You can think how great a
shock, being thus turned out of home
was to us - & one that it took some
time to even at all get over -
then there were all the minor dif-
ficulties also belonging to two unprotec-
ted girls setting up housekeeping alone -
I mean the way one person blamed
us - a 2^d ^{purpose} said cruel things of us - a
3^d perhaps tried to cheat or injure
us - & the world in general, except
in so far as their delicate attention
went, ^{seemingly} turned their back upon
us - altogether - ^{father} ~~we~~ returned to & so
for we found out long afterwards
that some who had here come ^{to see} as
for as kindly feelings went, were at
- least we met that it intruding,
or not, their place to call friends
of course there were a few bright exceptions. At
to all this - in our own real friends -

Still we had had all the painful belonging
other motions kept then away - must
necessarily cause at the time -
then we had difficulty at our houses - &
indeed all living by our substantial; for we
had to pain dear Mrs. Anderson - the Ashbourn
by refusing this cannot with that we should
live with or near them, as the bill pro-
posed - But dear Louie kept firm to her
belief that because our natural earthly
protector had turned us out of his home
it was no reason that we go - be an incubus
- but in the way of protection - requiring - or
any thing - else to our friends, however
earnestly or disinterestedly they met them
with it - & that is was right before
God that we should have a home of our
own, after all our sore trials - & that
therefore howers near at hand now -
it would prove itself to be so, to the rea-
son of any one whose judgment we
should really care for - respect, in coming
often - & most thankful and
that she did this bravely stick to
what she thought right all it - for it was
very painful to her to keep to it, in the
face of friends earnest wishes & opinions,
& their discourses to her how she was
injuring not only her character, but a
step, but mine too - - You can fancy
how with a very very unselfish person
like dear Louie, the father argument
would be very painful to act against - even
if only viewed as a possibility - I fear how
ever that it was to this thought & care for
me & also for the character our home should
bear, against we had in the future to

to receive dear Lou, & put into its shelter, & to protect them too far as we always felt but happen any day) — I fear that it was to this, (but chiefly on account) that dear Lou quite gave up meeting poor George wholly of an even, as she'd been used to do from our Father's house — because you with under cloud we ^{felt she} dare remark whitebread his ~~roof~~ nominal protection: while the fact more serious, & pair of girls living quite alone — & I can see now with our clearness, how vitally this help led to some painful misunderstandings between them, one then — & one afterwards. You can fancy how trying it must be to his poor fellow, all alone out in the country, on his little farm — or else almost more lonely, amongst the un- congenial noise, at ^{only} what are to be found at Natal hotels, whenever he needed to spend a few days in Durban — in the same town with Lou, but unable to see her, — tho' knowing others, to whom it was as nothing, & see as much of her almost as they liked — while he was at it we were famishing for the help & comfort of her home, — so alone & desolate & she too poor girl must have felt it almost equally — but was too proud & too shy or country to let me know one word of it — tho' on I may say ^{almost} every other subject our ownness & confidence were almost unlimited — But you can fancy how the peculiar circumstances of her having been once engaged to George, & then herself broken it off — helped to make any relation to this concern —

9 BC 151 C8.15
with stand you in good clear snow -
help you to get at mind - For besides
of natural stupidity on this point (can
horror I mean), that brighten by any
good teaching - I feel it must be to weight
increased by the very bad cold I have in
head - & I'm almost raging when else
too - for throat & chest pain can are all
attached by it; besides a upper feel of it
in limbs - So you see one cannot see
but think for such a poor creature
as this kind of thorough cold bed & pain
makes one - Don't mind my writing or
dearest - I mean don't that it hurts
me - because it's a real joy to treat to
talk with you awhile - or if I could
see you too - & have a real interchange
of that feeling - instead of this half one
- sided, substitute, for it - But I must
try to be patient - indeed I do feel very
thankful for ever this - which is ^{indeed} much more
compared to none - tho' for short of what
we hope God may one day give us even
on earth - But I must lie down &
ability to get up stop if I can - You
know you are with me this cold for
me dearest because there's no real heat
in it - merely great paper in warm
manner - for they're the the quiet can
to - & used to have frequently until
I found out about stopp then in the reg
commented by early Mrs. W. (a lady)
(homeopaths) (does you know) - but it
has not arrived the in the cold can't tell per
haps its lost its goodness through age per

own sake - for I'm sure ^{that} as far as her
own went, she found it a most weary
burden to him ^{more than} now he was gone
without a word of forgiveness to her
for things but she bitterly repented having
written in bitterness of spirit in a
painful misunderstanding ^{that} her
some months previously - I wish
out the knowledge of the whole deep
love of her woman's heart ^{at last} ^{his}
or how his own was most thoroughly
in spiritually accepted & returned -

(continued - middle of night after a new
rest sleep which I don't feel the power of yet)
more of until a little time ago -

I without her even knowing how ill he
was & so not sending any long words of encour-
age as I know I have been most
grateful to the poor fellow in his lonely
suspense - desolation part then - for I feel he
must indeed have forsaken by all but
God - I've had the in the least knowledge
of his being really ill / people told us in
the town that it was merely a bad
cold & nothing to be alarmed at / she
not only gave him - but afterwards
gone - & nursed him to the last,
if the dark was ended then to come -
But more probable humanly speaking
that he in home been ^{and} hard he
had an careful nurse with him -
for I was helped by some of his friends

from the parson in which he was found
dead - that he had not died from loss of
blood ensuing upon his breaking this second
repetition of the 2^d within a week from fellow,
the foolish & you say and the fault was not
of consequence; merely a snake bite of
throat caused by the great coughing from
bronchitis which he had then - but from
suffocation - during the faintness which
of course this naturally ^{test} ^{or}
yes saved to the father - sister who could
so deeply for him - & to her, for perhaps
a long happy life on earth here together -
cannot you just feel in imagine how
dreadful all these things - knowledge
must have been to 3 poor souls &
how they must have taken all gladness
out of life for a time - being it so very
endurable indeed -

but I must leave off again - so much to be
strong tonight / you know how a bad cold
rather weakens you - the letters & memories
which this has roused make me feel
very young -

Wednesday March 5th 1-P.M. - I was so poorly all
Sunday that I did only write a letter to Louisa - which I don't
at all in case of my still more unfit later on -
& Monday too was able for no more than a few
duty English notes - & sort out what letters from other
people I wished to send her - to that by speaking for
themselves as I were she is better understood
my things but I don't know to explain or even
perhaps to mention at all -
Yesterday I was really better but still felt for little
but did manage to get done 4 more sheets
to her part to say the most particular things

As it was needful I'd better answer
take her, & then mail - this morning I've
been since breakfast with one writing
letter & I owed it to send friend in haste
by this mail - has already delayed the for
one or two - & now I come here to write
the few things I more particularly want
to say to you dearest - before I have to part
this morn - as now I see you it must be done
a little sooner than I otherwise safely get
by post - So I must leave all the things
I was in the middle of saying to let you
at another time - & let them go in
unimpaired state - trusting you may be able
to glean some little from them even as it
is.

Your letter to Louis gave her as much pleasure
I think as hers has you - I'm very glad of both -
I won't answer what you say all ye laugh at
me here for I dare believe will have I trust
more than satisfied you as to my real
feelings on that subject.

I have read with much interest the part
of the Cape Paper you sent us by this mail
dearnt it relates to her & George's gift
& it is probably disjoint - Did you see how
flatteringly they had mentioned your name
in connection with it - I'd it help why
I read that - tho' of course sobering myself
by the recollection that if the Cape Paper
are edited by some kind of people as our
natal ones their praise & blame are
alike worth.

I feel very anxious to hear if you do really have
this appointment - I'd indeed be glad if it
is so dearest -
For all of Mr Woodhouse seems promising
but I'm sorry one of this co. arrivals is so far

with each other, unusually difficult &
embarrassing - I need directly she began
to feel, tho' perhaps unconsciously that I
was at least getting in to real care for
him again; & the immense difference
that ~~it~~ ^{it} make both their intercourses
& yet the improbability of at all
telling him so - & they were never enough
together ~~that~~ for him to learn it from
her unconscious words - was -
But it's a thing I can't at all explain
rightly or properly; so must only leave
these few words to give you what
vague idea the way of what was
a very painful reality then - both
to her ^{personally} poor darling; & also in its further off
effects, thro' her to us all - especially me -
for we were so nearly one - that every
thing that affected her painfully, was also
- so mine in one way or other to cause
me acute pain too - & this element
of anxiety, or tremulous joy, or bitter pain
went on mixing with both our daily
lives more or less, until its dreadful
end in poor George's long painful
death, so sudden, in the following ^{last} October -
we brought with bitter
anxiety to dear Louis - & ~~the~~ ^{the}
the after effects of what brought on that
state of utter weakness, we made her
go to Cape in almost the courage
of despair, to try if she ^{could} get better for

you feel upon honor to set a good
example in the first place - & you
would like to encourage, for another
at every harm you do, or let come to, yourself
does more truly - I believe ever now
you find it more easy to take care - I mean
now you know what you are to do -
I know the W of yr love has had a great
for more cause of health there last
two months.

I thank you with all my heart dearest
for your loving anxious wish to know our
painful troubles that you may do as they
you can to help us in them - I fear,
that except ~~the~~ ^{the} unspeakable comfort
of yr loving sympathy - & of yr advice too -
that this latter is impossible - I think
it now only rests with God to alter things
by changing our poor Father's feelings to
ward us, together with his views of
many other things - And whether He will
see fit to still do it - this life, even
the now late as his being had 60 poor fellow
makes it - is more than one dare speculate -
I feel we can only hope - & trust all but
of my Father's sad part - & I trust for brighter
future to this boundless mercy -
But as to letting you all dearest - that
I can do - as much as time & the brightness
of things by letter - will let me do or have
now - & all your way with more to know
in our future life of -

For you must indeed have been busy
for that mail to New Zealand & cry
close - & I quite understand you not

any fault in a longer letter dearest
as I said before -
I've let 2 religious tracts rest - & they
have died a natural death - a great mis-
take I think - I so fully meant to have
got those two Westminster from a
L. library near here last week so as to let
you how I'd enjoyed them - I mean that
one of June or July last - & also the Antislavery
one coming there before we go to
visit & see of yr Father's works - but
the old has prevented me - I did not
find out this L. till lately - the old one
I so counted on as being a set close
of - is shut since I knew it forming
& thus throws me out of my plans -
I've just been reading this with great
delight as an article in "Public Opinion" where
they have copied out of the Dec West-
minster I think - It's on "Secularism"
that is a name for 'unbelievers' who one
of themselves has originated -
I've given much to know the man
who's written it - I think he must be a
fine fellow - I don't know if
with others you with equal force
because you've been doubtless used
to so much unprejudiced writing on
religious matters - but to me in
regarded England it was indeed
refreshing - It seems to me so
wide - liberal so earnest yet unpre-
judiced & so really reverent in feel-
ing too - & also in some parts very beautiful -
tell me how you like it, some day -

Did I tell you that I go to Hawth-
-hurst in Kent to Uncle Henry's
on the 17th first being I could do
a little visit between that & the 12th
& that I stay - Kent till 7 or 8 April -
I've not seen Mr Maurice & am in-
pave in Ch when I want purposely to hear
his sermon - was delighted with some
of it) Mrs Puffall being here the pro-
prietor & it is at her house I shall be
likely to meet him - I've been
there the several times (the Puffalls)
& must enjoy it - I've also been
very kind to Mrs Hitts whom ad-
drip I found one of charm - she is
in London - poor little thing I fear
her chance of ever getting well as ^{any} ~~the~~
certain one - She has been very kind
to me - & I have been very much
informed of her - Of course she
knows of our correspondence
a very apt as ~~two~~ -

I must not ~~only~~ tell you what I had
written all our future plans - this
time - & besides after you have better
shall be able to do so for more
definitely -

I know you will pardon all my
haste - my mistakes & much stupidity
& believe me dearest only always
your own - with my best love
Emma (Hop) -

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the reverse - I can only guess who you mean
as you don't put a name - I should like to
know more all this - Yes I do indeed agree
with you as to the right of not letting this obstacle
affect your plans - I've often felt the de-
light you speak of that one finds in troubles
when you use all our energies - It is a very real
thing & very strange one -
The good news of your ~~with~~ better health is in-
deed a glad news to me - I should hope that
you soon got better after the mail had gone
- so that I may still have happy acts of
your health too much time - You don't
know how constantly you are in my
thoughts dearest day & night -

I'm very glad you've had that nice pleasant
letter from Mr Shepton - I own this letter
and to the possibility of your having been appointed
to that war some little disappointment
to me - because you can fancy how glad
I should have been to be able to be always
with you without being far from
dear home - especially not strong as she is
& I had that much (independently of the wish
I mean) that the climate there at least
you far better than the Cape - I don't mean
Solomon for that I don't like health - or
an contradistinction to the Cape Colony
of which I know nothing - but being to take
yourself - & I cannot but think
a very happy place for any one who's health
is not strong - but I must stop to speak at
this now - Yes I know you'll take
more care of yourself when I come - because