

however that I really ~~th~~ ^{feel} ~~even if~~ ^{as if} pained & dis-
appointed by my letter, it wd permanently affect
our way to each other. what I trust we both feel
quite true of now. But I wd not ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~have~~ ^{be} ~~been~~ ^{be}
the means of giving you even temporary
harm in a thing like this. though I felt sure,
at least almost a moral certainty, that my
next written letter wd you wd receive in March
wd have quite altered it all & that then you
see, of not before what the first really meant.
But she would then all this I dreaded that
I shd not hear from you at all - that you
wd have been too ill to write, & then to feel
so very far away as it was now - I a short
you don't know what dreadful gloomy
pictures wd constantly come unbidden to my mind
when I let myself think at all abt this mail
- abt I hoped for from it - so there was
nothing for it but just to ease thro the dark news
papers & talkables on any thy which would
just to keep from thinking abt it if possible
for I did not want to get ill or upset & cause
dear Anne & Charles anxiety in her very delicate
state of health - and oh how I did long day
& night, for the mail - It arrived Saturday
but owing to the intricacies of no London bus
days post Mrs Fisher did not receive our
letter till Monday morning so I had to wait till
Tuesday / yesterday / April 1st - You see what
very little time this gives me for answering
your dear letter & how we all must be posted
day after tomorrow / 4th - more especially
as I was yet written no account of this part
month to either you or her in readiness for
the mail's arrival, because this with plenty
of leisure since I came here for it I wd
just in that state when one can't write
but I shall do my best now & I know you

will accept the result, with loving pardon of
all I'm obliged to say too heavily on either count -
now I must lie down a little, as I must husband
my strength as I need it to last these three days for
as much work as can be achieved in them - &
I take your dear letter to read for the 3rd time
& then will come back & begin answering it -
Oh my darling I think you wd be indeed glad wd you
know this precious comfort it is to me - it
makes me feel so near you -

Afternoon -

Your understanding of my real meaning in that letter
is such a relief & besides so very sweet, from the proof
it is of how much our minds are one already - & so
my real meaning advised - because this I was in
great measure puzzled & perplexed when I began it,
yet I remember well how at the end I felt, even
in that short time, so much calmer & clearer abt
it all, & how sincerely I loved you, in spite of all
its trembling doubt, & faultiness when compared to
your own - I asked I know it was very difficult
to me to shut the expression of it ~~quite~~ ^{down}
so far as was necessary to enable your judgment
to decide, without being overbalanced by feeling - which
last I feared, did you know how my whole heart
& hopes hung on your favorable decision, not
to make the strongest thro' this fear of giving me
harm - This may seem a contradiction, &
as it wd have been, had my feelings to you been the
only point at issue - for then I did begin to know
how very dear you were to me, tho' I still wd not
feel quite sure that my love was the full re-
turn for ^{such as} yours ought to have - this I did feel
& believe in a special kind of way, that it wd
- wd grow to be such - for it has - But you
can have little idea how much I felt about
the possible hereditary insanity in our family -
I suppose having been its daily witness & sufferer
- poor Mrs Lloyd's case had given it an uncon-
trollable hold on my mind - or perhaps, that there
is a greater dread of it still existing in England
where we are not in the habit of seeing things

in the sort of ^{calmer} thorough, philosophical light,
in which I think you do in Germany - I mean in
kind of half superstitious dread & horror of it,
as I suppose is a remnant of darker ages - not
yet dispersed ^{quarantined} by the light of knowledge,
& of the natural laws & causes of things -
Ah how I have at times felt so strongly about this
that I ^{did} not ^{think} I should have been too surprised (that
I ^{did} rather, as you seem to me to look at most things
is such a candid unprejudiced way - but then we
are nearly all inconsistent about some things, & I ^{do}
not like where this subject lived in your mind.
I mean what place it held -) too surprised, or
blamed you dearest, had you shared my fear but
not my hopes, (probably more pleasant self delusion)
my heart felt the latter not the former & so dreaded a
closer connexion with one whose fate might be
this terrible one - & you can understand
I'm sure how the more I felt all this, the
less I dared allow myself to say, as I felt ^{otherwise} when
writing the latter part of that letter to you -
indeed I've some times feared since it went
that I'd even spoken about coldly of what you
must be - but you know how when one does not
feel it right to express all you feel - the very effort of
choosing it down sends one unnaturally to the other
extreme - But thank God you did see
my meaning in spite of all - for I can't but feel
that, this in this letter you are so dear & earnest
in giving me full liberty to retract or reconsider
all now & even later, & my heart does thank
you dearest most earnestly, for all your
loving solemn words of warning, & your dear
constant thoughts for all my present & future
(life) yet that you did in your inmost
heart believe my answer to be what it has -
in spite of the doubt & fear that it come at
times to you, as it does to us all, ^{I think} on subjects
where we have very much at stake in the re-
sult.

BC 151 - C8.17.
Hawthornest-parsonage, Haplehurst, Kent.
April 2^d 1862.
My own darling friend,
I've no words in which to adequately
tell ^{you} the deep joy which your dear loving letter of Feb.
has given me - My whole heart thanks you for
it - I'd been in that miserable state of sus-
pense the last week when the 'Cambrian' did not
come at her usually early time, & day after day
dragged on - no letters - Oh you don't know all
the dreadful things I thought & feared - I was
just too miserably anxious to write even to you -
I don't believe with me - I'd have brought
any other trouble to you & been comforted by you
writing it to you - but not this, because it was
to so great a degree all your self - & I feared say
things in all my anxious doubt & misery which
might give you pain if you I not fully realize
how nervously wretched I had got in this protracted
waiting - No, it will never be so again
because whatever other trials may be in store
for us I believe we shall never doubt each other
love more - & so long as ours sure of that - & God's
all else is bearable whatever been pain it
may bring - And don't think dearest that
even now, or rather then, my real self doubted
you or your dear love - no it was such that
but that knowing how difficult I found it to ex-
press my self at all in that letter to let these
frustrated one to be in answer - & being sadly conscious
how I would have failed in doing so clearly - & knowing
how very sensitive we are where we love much,
& perhaps even apt to be morbidly doubtful of
its return - I could not feel sure you would not
be in some measure pained or disappointed
by my words, & indeed you read my heart thro'
them - & this I so hoped this & in calmer moments
almost believed it - Yet you with hardly won-
der at my feeling as the short of certainty as dreadful
when all my love & all my life was at stake - that

had one better moment (I mean of better feeling ^{as to my part} of course the whole blow ^{of it} was bitter to me) when I got that letter of yours - but yet ~~there~~ even then it was only that - & indeed then I felt more better against fate, than you - I can only love you more for the unselfish striving for my good as you then saw it, who dealt it to me - for I don't think you wrote those words without real pain - you don't know how speaking you handwrite is, ^{my own} when you are doing it quite unconsciously, as to me - It has often said things to me but you look care your words should not -

I thank you deeply darling for all the love & trust in my understanding, & real meaning, & not misunderstand, your speaking thus to me, that you show in what you say to me of your health. I do feel truly what it must be to you (a man, with all a man's feelings of all the loving care & protection he wd wish to give to the woman he loved) my darling to realize how often you may be prevented from giving that to me. & so I feel truly grieved for it - I mean for any pain it may cause you - But for my self I have been so long used to be unmoored & able in the world - by it in a way I fancy women in our days ^{at least} seldom have to face - have one must almost ^{badly} say, no father - & as you know no brother either - that I do not feel so dependent on outward care - protection as any one wd think, or as I used - I am sure it's a very merciful thing that the power comes so with the need for it - for there was a time when I was in most things one of the most timid, shrinking, dependent creatures - but with the stern necessity for being, to quote a child's fairy book, "father, mother, & uncle, all in one" - to first the poor little ones at home, (our old home) & since ^{that} to each other in our

later new one ^{well it} has come the power of it in a wonderful way - I mean of taking almost a man's part in life, of providing, protecting, transacting worldly business - & all at it - Not that it is much to my taste in itself, tho' I am very thankful for every little increased capability of it - for one is so glad & thankful to be able to act in case of need for ^{one's} self, or in helping those dear to you, instead of lying in helpless burden upon them - And had you ^{possibly} ^{years} become, able in strength & power to give me all the loving care & protection that I know your heart wd wish - you wd see how gladly I wd lay by all my more independent way of action, & how sweet it wd be to me to owe it all to you - But as it is - I know you will quite understand & feel very thankful that tho' these acquired habits I may perhaps be ^{than I otherwise be in care} of a care & anxiety to you, my darling, at times when you are not well or strong enough to be as thorough a protector to me physically as you are & wish be ^{morally & mentally} - & as you wd wish - ~~than as otherwise~~ be the case - So much for this part of the subject darling which I will now leave - I shall be truly thankful if by my weak words, thro' your seeing how I feel about it & how ^{much} more independent in that sense I have become now, than I was even when a babe & young, we were merely the commencement of my solitary wandering - it should have lifted any of this load from off your mind - And you must remember dearest how you are not taking me from a happy well protected home - but that all the loving protection you can give me (however likely will be all absolute gain) that I scarcely like to talk about it in this matter of fact way - & indeed only do so because I wish to show you how taking it on its very lowest ground, you do me no wrong & expose me to no hardships -

And as to the other side of it, why I've put out words at all adequately to express a deep conviction & feeling, of how it is ^{mental} moral help & protection, that makes one feel free it - strong, & able to face the world - life & death, & every thing but wrong, by the side of one you love - why even here, all these miles & miles away from you, the feeling & knowledge of your love makes me feel brave & strong when alone & in difficult or possible danger - so what the daily help & comfort of its presence will be I leave to your imagination - No, I've felt whole ever since I realized your love for me & that I'm & did thoroughly love you in return - where as I never felt more than a half before - I can't put it into words rightly - but I think you'd understand my meaning - I'm very sorry for it for I did so want to finish answering that part of your precious letter before the evening interruption came - but I fear I must go & lie down a while now as my back is aching for it by having you to ache -
Night - I don't know whether I am right but I think that in this part of your letter you also refer to those hopes which God has made ^{naturally} dear to us all, & I think especially to a woman's heart - And I will not hide from you, for I tell you all now, that I feel what a crowning joy these precious gifts of God must be, when they come to two souls who are really one, & so have the mutual help & guidance & support of each other's earnest love & efforts while jointly trying so to guide & cherish these precious plants that they may come to that real life of heart & mind which makes ~~even this~~ ^{the} sad world a blessed place to live in, tho' it can't be always a bright one - & so never feel that the life they have been given is an ^{unasked} ~~unasked~~ weary burden & almost an injustice done them - Yes I do think much of this blessing the almost ever more of the almost terrible responsibility - But I feel my own dearest one

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But before quitting this subject, which odd enough I shall move the last - your letter has come to be answered I first here - I must just protest against being made to say that I am a very sensible person - I'm really pleased as I am darling that you can think me so, & I like more for whatever ground there may be for your opinion - You know this is not a very serious protest - for I'm pretty sure you either ended it in fun thus - or that being to quote your words, you unconsciously ended them by your own thoughts, & did not see how curiously their implied authorship made them read - I can scarcely tell you the what a load your words abt it (insanity) have taken from my mind - Perhaps you don't know that it's a subject so generally avoided in England & that most people wd as soon confess to its having been in any member of their family, as that he had been hanged for sheep stealing - or even a worse crime - & so that one scarcely ever does hear instances of it quoted - therefore I had no idea of what you say ^{as} the general, or rather ^{but} uncommon fact, why the case I this with perhaps a little explains my having treated it so seriously -

Thank you so very much my darling for all your loving answer to my thoughts & perplexities & the way you so entered into them all & did not blame me for sending no clearer an answer - Your loving sympathy with all my doubts & difficulties, then is so precious to me - I think I told you in my last letter how I had read all your dear letters thro' again while in London - you later once I have many times - & you ^{will have} seen too from my Feb'y letter how much I'd seen of all you wished (so unselfishly on your acct) to hide - tho' I'd not dared believe my senses - But I do feel so much toward my darling how very terrible all those long months of doubt & uncertainty & waiting must have been to you - I don't I honor you for all your marvellous striving to do what you thought right I can't say - How can you use such a word as anger in connection with it darling? No, tho' I own to having

inheritance of moral evil, & painful cares
& even fleshly misery at times, ^{been the means of} ~~bringing us into~~ ^{help} — even with healthy minds
& bodies to contend with death — But this
dear Thy was perhaps entirely ~~without~~ ^{with} her
foresight & control — But I feel that phy-
sical conditions are not & that they are
sadly, aye bitterly, to be blamed — who dare
to act against God's righteous laws, & yet
flinch to bring into his world those to whom
they are no right to give life, when they
have no ^{reasonable ground of} ~~firm~~ hope of giving ~~them~~ ^{them} health
~~to it~~ —

Now as to your only other doubt about our
union darling, I mean your dread that it will
so be that you have to leave me sorrowing &
lonely in this world if you are summoned
from it first I think we may trusting leave
that in our heavenly Father's hands — I feel
none but he, can take you from me — & as
I believe he is perfect love & wisdom — that is
with not be until, or unless, he sees it the
real best for us both — & dreadful as it will
be to me to lose you darling — better beyond all
words — yet I know that he who dealt the
blow will give the power to bear it — & even
then my darling, whenever that hour does come
it will not be really losing you — I mean
not in its full bitterness, like losing you
from my soul (I say wrong again!) will be —
I believe you will be with God, tho' I do not see
you — & in pain humbly hope & try so to live, with
you my darling in spirit with me still, that
if & when he in his mercy shall see fit to let us
meet once more we will if any be ^{for} more
one than ever — not less so — But please

don't think of this my darling — at least not
to any painful anxious degree — For I think bright
that give us most help & strength, specially in our
somewhat trying wait time as I know we must
both find that we must pass before we need
to be — even at best — No, tho' I try to refrain
from castlebuilding, & tho' I do believe what you
tell me all yr health because I know you
will not tell me anythg that was not true — yet
I do look forward hopefull to (perhaps many)
happy years together — I can't but hope too that
when you are got me with you you may both,
from ^{strict} happiness, & thro greater care, — get gradually
a great deal better, even tho the joy of your
entire restoration to health may be one which
never to be granted us —
With about this fear of yours has recalled some
words to my mind which I have copied & sent me, as I
often does anythg which strikes me, ^{some time ago} ~~as I~~ ^{the} therefore think
I shall also care to see — I think the sense of it is
true & even beautiful, tho partly expressed in in-
adequate words. I think I'll write them ^{when} here if
my memory serves me for I don't know how to find
that letter — I think I'll give a fragment out of
some poem which of course refers to things gone be-
fore —

Love me, my love, for I may lie
Dead in thy sight, beneath the cold blue sky —
The more thou hast loved me, the less thy pain,
The surer thy hope that we meet again.
And through the dread portals that none may know
With a load of love — my soul could go —

I feel my dashes may have rather disturbed what
little rhythmic harmony these lines may pos-
sess — & yet as I don't know when the lines really
end, or when their stops are ventured to put
there emphasis, ^{to the} as I hear it in my head in cer-
tain places —
I think it will be most right to leave off & go to
bed now as it has struck something which I take to be

midnight - so goodly for tonight & God keeps
you my own darling - yr very own Jennie -
Thursday afternoon April 3^d I'm not very bright
today I'm sorry too - at least ^{feeling} not at all strong & rather
hooded - ~~the~~ this is no thing really to mind being only
the natural ^{effect} of all our hard anxious suspense
& I suppose a little too from the reaction since
all the first joy & excitement of getting yr
dear letter - & dear home too - I only mind it
because there is so little time for work in this mail
season so it is very sad to feel so little able to say all
the thousand ^{things} to yr who I would - & also to write
to her dear thing as I ought, & write - But I know
yr will both understand both the cause & the
result - & so forgive all the omission wh I fear
by now I wish, there must be this time -
I think I shall put to now & so all the more im-
portant ^{things} ~~of which~~ I want to tell yr - & then
leave this & do the same with regard to dear
home is when letter I've as yet not touched since
mail came in -

I do not answer all your dear loving words of advice
& helpful warning my darling - not because I do not
most deeply value them & the love that said them
all - but because I trust my last two letters will
have rendered such answer needless on my part -
for you know now, at least as far as weak words can
tell it you, how dearly & deeply & entirely I love you.
But all the loving trust & care & sympathy that
they contain is & will be, most precious to me -
So I can't regret all the care & I fear almost pain
from the possibilities they dealt with wh write
then must have cost you, tho' they are in the sense
in wh you meant them chiefly - I mean their most
obvious object, needless thank God - & I know
you won't regret it either darling - for the same
reasons -
As to my health, you mustn't be anxious - I
mean not uncomfortably so - for indeed there is
no cause - I am not well or strong yet - but then
that I hardly be expected - as tho I've been taking great
care in every way I could then past 3 months - & then
for

that if God in his inscrutable wisdom has
allowed things so to be that this blessing
may not rightly be ours that this is the reason
that we should not take the still greater blessing
he has left us - I mean the unity of soul & spirit,
& the blessed daily comfort of each others love &
constant presence wh I trust our marriage
may truly symbolize, & confer to us - As my
darling, I had rather be your wife than, whatever
trials may be in store for us, than have any other
state the world could offer me - were it what is
generally that its best & brightest - for I love you
with all my heart - darling & put yours in
all real things & before God - even now -

I trust you too much to think you will mis-
understand my speaking so plainly to you now -
even ~~if~~ I have mis understood yr meaning -
& it is a great comfort to me to have had the
opening wh you, as I think, have given me to
speak to you about it - For it has been
the only real alloy my happiness has had from
the fear wh we come sometimes, that you might
not think like me on this subject - & I felt
very deeply what a difficult one it was to ap-
proach & yet that it was one of such vital
importance from the immense right & wrong
involved in it - that I had no right to shrink
it became difficult, or to ~~feel~~ ^{be} ~~any~~ false notion
of delicacy deter me speaking of it to you the
first moment I could - I did not believe you
would think with me all it clearest, for you
are far too just I think & have too deep a sense of
our responsibilities to God & man - to let you
ignore a subject involving what it does - or
still up not to feel the ^{your disappointment} ~~old~~ selfishness - wrong
it is ~~if~~ those who bring poor little helpless beings
into this world to inherit weakness & disease
wh God knows we find hard to bear in our own
selves - I can't tell you how bitterly I've
after felt it in my own case - & of what an

it for you dear sabbie —
I think Dr Russell is really clever, both from much
that I see & hear (not from themselves of course, but
as it were by chance from indifferent people)
such as the position he holds at the ^{London} Homeopathic
hospital where I notice his course of lectures
(for medical students) comes the first — preceded
merely by Dr Quin's (who appears to be the head of the
profession in England) opening address —
& many similar things — & also still more
(for I prefer experience to hear say) by the great
relief & that of a permanent kind, that his mind
runs constantly strong — & the sound sense
of all the advice he gives me — besides his
seemingly great general knowledge & also sense
as applied to other kinds of things —
He seems to have been a physician for very many
years — & I fancy for some time before he be-
came a Homeopathist — He may be past 50
I don't know for his head is getting grey when
it is not already bald — this in mind & spirit he
seems quite young still — but some people do
keep their youth so wonderfully —
But what to me is almost more than his age
or standing as a physician or even his personal
skill, is his very high moral character —
I don't use this word in its common sense,
I mean not merely as the negation of what
is bad, — but in its highest use — for a
more truthful honest pure minded man
I've seldom known — You know how I
often can't find words clearly to express what
I feel — & it's the case now — but to try & give it
you thro' a more concrete form I do say — that
I've that feeling about him that he will tell me
quite truly about every thing — even it even to his own
disadvantage — or to his present pain — if I
asked him, having the right to do so —
He seems to be so very conscientious about his

patients — & to look on his medical duties most
as a man's profession to get a living by — as I fear
too many do — but as a real work in this world
to be done ^{as} to his God — & for his fellow men —
Do I at all give you the idea I would?
I don't think that you will put any of this down
to girlish folly that is prone to run into ecstasies
about every new kind friend — for you know how
almost too apt I am to pick people's minds & charac-
ters unmercifully to pieces — then be disappointed
that the faults & imperfections of course find
there — forgetting the charity that is due to our
fellows beings & also the offer for greater faults
& failings which exist at home — I mean in my
self — And I don't know why, but I have
this feeling as we much towards men — Perhaps
it is a natural safeguard given to those who are
otherwise so defenceless — But I do
look thro' & pick to pieces men in a very critical
way — I mean as far as my little powers will go — And
I can't bear a man who is in any real essential
things not what he ought to be — I mean ^{not} that
I feel to be such — for God only knows how far
I may be right or wrong —
Therefore I feel that when I can praise a man, as
I feel Dr Russell deserves — that he must be at all
events very different to others, whatever that difference
may really be —
I don't know whether you believe in mesmerism
I mean as a mere magnetic or mesmeric sleep,
(not of course all the clairvoyance or other
phases to which that name is applied) — but I think
just going to say (as by another concrete way of saying
what I wish to tell him) that except
my Uncle Manaduke & Mr Sanderson (of whom
you've heard) — there is no one whom I'd volun-
tarily let mesmerize me, besides Dr Russell —
I mean on acts of whatever power over ones
will or actions that certainly seems to give the
one who mesmerizes you — this how far it really

does as I of course don't at all know ^{& to}
plain talk in this category is no light ~~from~~
from me - I mean not as one / worth less me / but for
the opinion it implies -
Have I worried you by this desuperior descent?
but I ~~would~~ say that - I only mean it as time taken
for other important things - but I wanted
to answer yr almost question abt Dr
Russell & my want of oratorical power & brevity
of speech - have rendered it rather a lengthy
one - For my self then I have every confidence
in his skill & care & judgement - but I wish
gladly dearest do what you wish when I go
to Brown (if I do) - I don't mean I wish take
Dr Wolfer's medicines because from all I've
seen & read of the allopathic ones I believe them
to be generally deleterious both for the quan-
tities in wh they are given, & still more for
the mode of ^{their} selection - & at best as rather
less good than really skillful Homeopathic
treatment - I say skillful because I don't ^{the}
least believe in all the ignorant Homeo-
pathic quacks who set themselves up for
real doctors - I'd even rather trust to un-
aided nature than ^{to} them - And I know
you would not wish ^{me} to do anyth about
my health that I thot really bad for it - & there-
fore wrong - But if it wd be any com-
fort to you dearest for me to consult him
& get his opinion I wish gladly do it - that
is if he wd vouchsafe it to a medical
heretic such as Homeopaths are consid-
ered by the older establishment to be - & one
too who does not mean to take his medicine
But I think if I'd tell him beforehand why
I asked his advice (because you wish it) & get him
as gently & nicely as I could that I did not feel
it right to take his medicine, that he would

one 4-BC 151 CB 17 remble
therefore not expect great improvement
by now - yet on the other hand we must remem-
ber dearest how much of joy & hope & also anxiety
& miserable suspense has been crowded into
them - and I think when that is fairly taken
into account the result is far from unsatisfac-
tory - I mean as to my health - For however as I do by
past sad experience how terribly & utterly mental
trouble or anxiety or even simply deep excitement
used to upset my bodily health - making me with-
out appetite or strength by day & minus sleep by night
or even the power of simply resting awake, either
day or night - from the terrible state of spinal
irritation what let on - I cannot but feel how
very much I must have gained of real health &
strength to have enabled me to be really a good
deal better now than I was a few months since,
in spite of all that has been on my mind - I mean
of course here only its anxious part - for the other
the dear joyous one, has been my greatest earthly help
& comfort ever since my answer to that letter, but
waited as in fancy, was written - And this too
in spite of much unfavorable weather wh has
kept me much indoors & you know that is not
the best place for picking up strength & freshness -
& also in spite of all the far to meases, but many
visits to a dentist incessantly involved for I've been
obliged to have 6 teeth out within the last two months
besides my minor things done to the remaining ones -
I trust however this may give me ^{comparison} some fatigue in man -
- but from that terrible neuralgia in head & face
wh was constantly let on by cold or a little getting
to the many exposed nerves - & wh took away my
sleep & generally blasted such a drawback in my
general improvement whenever it attacked me -
I've great hopes now, with warmer weather coming
& still more from the great peace & joy wh has come
to end my terrible suspense - that I shall gain
ground rapidly - at least as far as is compatible
with its best & last improvement - Of course
I must expect not to be very well for a week or
more has part, because one must allow for what
an reaction will be after all my dear letters are
finished - but then I shall hope to mend daily -
You know I shall try hard to do my part toward

eye & eye
even when she did know. And such a conscious-
ness, or rather fear, - and quite take away any
little power of telling her, how things really are
between us, that my natural timidity ^{otherwise} not have
left me - At least I think it would unless
the seeing her, & all the feelings with her being
your mother and gone me - And your mother
But my want of power to speak to her in her
own tongue as she ^{could not} ^{be able to} fully understand me
in mine ^{make it} a barrier here - No dearest -
I feel as if I could not bear to see her like she
knew I was to be your wife - but oh if she then
and give me a welcome (however unworthy I be
of it) to her heart & love, it would be a joy second
to none & save my greatest one, your caring for me
darling - Because not only do I long to know
her, & feel to love her ^{already} simply as your mother; but
also for all you have told me of her feel how
worthily she must be of it - & besides that, so
one as we are, even now, in other things, it for
would be impossible for me not to care ~~for~~ ^{dearly}
one whom you so love -
You know I hope that when you rec^d my next
letter with you and necessarily do before posting
(I hope perhaps ^{even} before ^{can} write) your intention
one to her) you will feel quite sure of how
we should stand to each other, & that, since I so wish
it in that letter ^{as} you had said nothing in this
one but I am just ^{free} to alter or prevent such
a thing. You will feel that virtually (indeed
actually before God) we were engaged to each
other most solemnly then -
And I think darling that feeling thus, you will very
probably alter your intention & tell your dear
mother all - & instead of mentioning me ~~badly~~,
as (even) a (dear) friend, and ask her to receive me
as your future wife -

that I feel I must wait patiently for next
mail with which decide all this, & I will not
take up this precious time with surmising
or even hopes - And I know well darling, that
however you may have decided, or whatever
have said or done, in this matter, it will all
have been out of the truest love to me; &
therefore that I shall lovingly accept it
whatever it be - And so you are not to feel
sorry or disappointed darling, please; if when
this reaches you you have already acted dif-
ferently to what I did not help expressly to you
below as my earnest hope & wish - I know
you will like me to tell ^{it to} you, as it is such a
strong one - For I always like you, quite tho-
roughly, to tell me, of your feelings with re-
gard to any or every thing, & I do or say - or rather I
should more correctly say, write - but it will be
quite true of the other two darling if you only would -
But now I must tell you before quitting this
subject how I have already spoken of you to
3 of my dear mother's family, contrary to your in-
tention as you know; tho' that I done come for
became one after finding how true the saying is
of 'live, & learn' - But it's being contrary to
what I find is your wish dearest, is what I do
care for - & that very much - for tho' I can't but
feel & believe that when you know my reasons
for so doing, you will not mind it, & indeed
I think with feel how I could not rightly have
done otherwise, under all the circumstances
as I with presently relate - Yet it is more
painful to me than I can ^{well} say, to in any way
go against - my darling's wishes - You see what
a good thing it is that I'm not really afraid of
you dearest; for I fear if I were I should never
hold to the right moral corner as I am, if it abate
involved acting contrary to your wish, ^{even} ^{as} ^{we}
this case, tho' not to your real wish, as I think were
you on the spot, & what I do know or
suppose you had, that on the subject,

had "sufficient combination of head & strength
to write coherently at all - That it is not longer
& also far more worthy - itself I'm true, my
darling - for I feel sadly how short the time is now
one mail goes - midnight having just struck
to there is only so much of this one last day (4th)
left ^{for work} as I may be able to get from ~~flap~~ ^{reception}
& necessary sleep & unavoidable ruler -
tripton - with sufficient strength & sense
to let you all I ought (not wish, for I do that in
sleepy days but hours here) & also write
what I must of business - & all I can of comfort
or other needful thing, to my dear home -
I almost think it will be wisest to lie
down now for a few hours, as I have sleep me
make my mind lighter for writing - so Goodnight
once more my darling -

Early Friday Morning April 4th - I've woken much refreshed
by several hours good sleep so begin at once that I may
not lose any of the very precious time in this my last day
for this mail -
I think I must tell you, as shortly as possible, how it was
I came to speak of my dear future hopes, as the time is so
very short - instead of giving you a reason more or less as
I intended - should have wished -
You must know that I was beginning to be in a very painful
excited kind of state, from the anxiety as to what the last
mail and letter, even when I went to London on the
12th March, having permanently left Bloomfield Terrace, &
I must not think it necessary that I should longer ^{be in touch with}
him - I must tell you also, that I'd grown to know
dear Aunt Juey's real character so much better, owing
to the very long & earnest correspondence we had made
to & from her, while in London - that I found not only
how thoroughly she was to be trusted in all things as re-
garded truth & honor, but also, how understanding & sym-
pathetic she was to me in every thing which we know expe-
rience had made her at all able to comprehend -
and how thoroughly it was, from the almost childlike
simplicity of her mind, joined to the comparatively very hap-
piness of her life she had always led, that
she was so ununderstanding in some things - & not
from any want of feeling - But of course all this
we never ^{fully} made me tell her, even anything about
us two; much as I naturally ^{longed} for her love & sym-
pathy

sympathy all it - because I felt in a manner
pledged to you not to do so, until I should have rec^d the
answer to my letter - I knew your decision - And I
hoped then to tell it / if favorably ^{as I} not but more
earnestly hope & even believe it would be) to any of my
nearest & dearest relations - friends (in this hemisphere)
whom I wished to know in private to whom I felt it in
a kind of duty way, owing - I never knew / but of course
I did not do) that your feelings as expressed in this dear
letter, would be as strong against it, as mine had been
at first -
But I found that the miserable excited state my mind
was in made me get - speak in so unnatural a way
(you know I was ^{very} tired just then, from my bad cold in
a previous week having made me so weak & poorly)
that I'd had to post some many necessary duties or business
that must be achieved before I left London, & I was
therefore ^{very} crowded into the last few days
there - & this I'm thankful to say, I'd kept sufficiently well
to get ^{these} then somehow - yet they I've been rather sore
that was a right prepossession, on my health & strength
so you can understand how, being physically over-
tired & upset to begin with, I had ~~the~~ ^{not} quite power
to be the mistress of the nervous part of my night - I was
quite so painfully excited just then, that I should have
wished -) in so unnatural a way, that I feared
dear Aunt Juey and see it, / for she is being sensitive
all most things, & be quite shocked & pained - & just
think it was that I was allowed both in affection to
her, & in any self too - & that I did not like coming to
stay with them - & I know my idea of this kind of
trouble given her deep pain - for she does love us very
really for her sake, to whom she was devoted & I do
we have the power to pain her heart by our actions
(as we did much) in a way which none else ^{could} but her husband
or her own children could - And of course I felt it
would be very natural she should think one or all of these
things; did I appear otherwise? what I feared was the
care - because she would never dream of the real
cause -
All this made me feel it only right & wise to
just tell her how I had honestly on my mind and made
me very anxious, like next time she had come
& that ~~as~~ ^{she} must not be pained or worried by any of
strange I did not do or say for ^{her} felt hardly worth the
myself just then - & only ascribe it to the neglect & care

dignity / I mean that dignity comes
with older years & most people she may
lose it or in other outward things - yet
it will be in purchased at the price of losing
the dear loving fresh - child like spirit
which I think its cause - & which it is rare
to meet with in any grown up woman in
the world - & particularly in a circle which
I laughingly call the "bean world" ^{where they} ~~where they~~
her husband's position (as well as her own
birth) have placed her - & which I think
is peculiarly unfavorable to ^{keeping a strong} great natural
simplicity of character - not from
any real harm in it - for I think in moral
tone English society is wonderfully pure
& high, considering all things - & certainly is so
by the side of that of ^{the} past generation -
But because of rich & prosperous people
(who have been born to it) having mixed
so little with the stern realities of life
that they are apt to fall into a false es-
timate of many things; & so soon ^{lose} ~~lose~~ their nat-
ural truth, or beauty of character -
But it seems to me that English society
has wonderfully gained in moral tone -
in the recognition of the truth & beauty of sing-
leness of aim - & the greater perception
of what high ideals of purity & good-
ness in heart & life God's creatures ought
to strive after - ever since I was a child
Oh dear how fast the time goes - I must
hasten to tell you that I meant to tell dear
Aunt Ellen & Aunt Henry of my great happy

directly the mails arrived & I have given
me the right to do so - therefore when dear
Aunt Ellen was enquiring with such loving interest
of all our doings in Natal - what our house
(our new little house) was like & I told her all
I did & showed her the plan of it; & she happened
to be so much struck by its smallness of size,
& the fact (which I'd never noticed) that it contained
no bedroom for me, that of course I could not
say directly ^{in answer to her} that they were going to build another
room or two on to it, one of which would be mine -
(as this the former is probably the case - I don't
know the latter is not likely to be so -) And
then ^{when} she said, one thing that we were alone to
get this so gently & lovingly that she must be
going to return to the home of my own - I said was
it that the case - that I without scruple
told her that I should think it would be so - this I'd
not be entirely sure till after this last mail
arrived / she knew how very anxious for it I
- that therefore, this I'd fully meant to mention
it all to her then, I felt it most right to
say nothing all at present - she was more
delicate in her love for me all I did dear
thing, seeing even now she asked me that ques-
tion, & saying she ought not to have done it -
& that she did not by another word move on the
subject till after the mail had come - but
then unless I liked - even to me - of course
nothing to any one else -
You can understand how after this, I still told
her a truth all over when the mail had come;
not only because I felt it wrong to have raised
her anxiety on any account - & then to leave it all
unsatisfied - for she does love us & very dearly
I know, & as mama's eldest sister, & one of whom
she was very fond - takes an almost brotherly
interest in our welfare - But also because
I had that feeling of not liking to be in dear
Aunt Henry's house / he having acted the almost

fatherly part he always has to us in our
way he'd for many years part of ^{us} conceal from
him a thing of such vital importance to me as
my solemn hope & engagement to give myself
to one whom I dearly love is — And not only
in telling him including as to dear Aunt Charlotte
both because she is fully worthy of this love
& trust & also as ^{being} his other self as it were & being
for having neither of them ever married, ~~she~~ from
her very delicate health the dear thing; & he I fancy,
mainly, that her peaceful happy home with him
will never be disturbed — ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~are~~ ^{and} having
now lived together very many years — they have
naturally grown more & more one in all things
But I was naturally most thankful to be
able to tell it him thru her — For you know
how far easier it ~~must~~ ^{was} to me to speak of
you, & your very peculiar position, & the circum-
stances that have led to its being such just now,
& what little I may of my glad hopes & joy (which in
their full extent I can ^{tell} ~~say~~ to none but
God & you) to a gentle earnest loving
woman like Aunt Char — than to Uncle Henry
who in the first place is a man & in the
second, / tho so truly good — & so kind to us, ^{will} ~~will~~
the things not come within his range of ~~thought~~
or observation — & with almost a woman's
tenderness of heart in ~~some~~ things (tho the very
reverse of any effeminacy) — yet is a person
to whom I find it very difficult to speak
on many subjects — for he's one who, with a very
clear power of saying just what he himself ^{thinks}
& ^{that} ~~simply~~ & correctly; does not combine the ~~other~~
~~which~~ some people so happily also have, of being very
quick to derive another meaning who may be
the very reverse of them ⁱⁿ this happy talent?
mean that of expressing ^{clearly} ~~themselves~~ in words —
And you can fancy how this affects me —
for ~~you~~ ^{think} you know how when at
all frightened or nervous I almost lose all

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that until I knew she knows it all but can
not be told after next mail, if then I should
wish nothing said by her to Aunt it — of course
I accepted her husband should she wish to tell him —
(as for as she knows herself — because I feel one
has not right to come in any way between the
two who should be one — tell him only —
for with me by her letter how she is decided
to tell him — which I am glad of — as he is a person
who hates secrets — & so, tho I know I'd trust the
keeping of it quite to his honor, I am very glad
he is not to be told while it is one — as it al-
ways seems to me as unfair to bother any one
unnecessarily with a thing to which they are a great
disturbance —
I must also tell you, if I've not done so before, in
a part later how she is a very impulsive
person, at least so far as feeling — expressing
herself too, almost enthusiastically about many
things, ^{give} ~~give~~ you hardly ever meet with a
person who does, after they have grown out
of their first young happy girlhood —
And this will acct. to you for what you
at first think strange or over strong,
in her little notes; but it is really perfectly
natural in her — for she has a more
quaking way of writing, / to those she knows
intimately & cares for / than I think any
one I've ever met with —
She always says how very like a girl she
still feels all things — that she fears she
never shall learn to be like other people
of her age — & none who know her will
have her alarmed in this, for a good deal —
for however much in appearance

be deceitful, ^{in word,} or uncomfortably avoidant
of the subject, in their converse with our
few real friends then — Though of course
except for these two reasons, I very much wish
to talk them — — —

I had to leave off then & drop as it was nearly mid-
day — & now that I'm back again I want to finish
what I was saying. My head is so stuffed with the bad
neuralgia, that's come on in it, & all face, that
I don't know how I shall ever say coherently all
that I still so much want ^{to} ever need to tell you —
I know I shall ever write to dear Tom for you
must know a letter to her is not yet begun
at least not under word came in ^{as} only as much
as a 'coulston' fragment to you, was ready done
^{before} as I fear that she will come sadly
short of the long comfort after I wanted
to have written her — tell her all my gladness,
wh I know you give her such joy to realize,
& of how our relations ^{will} when I've told (specially
which thing) have red & ridings — & the very
many other things too, wh she'll want
come to know — But one thing for one
moment daily that I often regret & even
feel wrong, in having taken at the time I
yet have had, in writing this to you —
For indeed it's not so — For not only
has it been ^{my} greatest comfort & delight
but I feel it was also my first duty too —
And I did not even know you ^{the} knowledge
of my letter before how ^{very} necessary so
should this have been, when it was to explain
what I am going to ask you — which is with
you clearest talk her, in short, as much of what
I have told you as you feel she will care to know
(that is of all the parts wh you do not feel are meant
for your eye alone — if & when you've time
& strength, & leisure for your other letters,

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all power of expression — I can merely
stammer, ^{away} in wretched mess, or at best, say
blunder on the very most unlike words
to mean, that it will be well found
He is ^{besides} a person who is very matter of fact in
most things & who, tho' with a keen sense of
the ludicrous, wh I think involves having
some share of imagination; — is yet of
nearly almost entirely devoid of it
in all its other manifestations
& you can fancy that, to one accustomed to
ever most in the contrary direction, like me,
this adds greatly to the difficulty of talking to
him on any subject one cares much about,
because it is necessary to always keep in mind
that he may take what one says quite 'unfused
de la lettre' wh hampers one's choice of
words terribly —

well I must not stop to tell you any more all
him now clear fellow, kind & good as he is —
as shall only say that he has spoken to me
most kindly & gently all a engagement to
you — indeed in a manner that from its
its gentle sympathy, & tender care for me, touch
me very much, as coming from a man like him
I mean one of his reserved & peculiar character
He said, gravely, how very glad he was to hear
of what was likely to make me happy — & then went
on to ask with much interest about you —
& seemed to feel & speak regard, you dearer
in an very nice way — One indeed wh quite
surprised me in him, because I had feared that
the mere fact of your not being English, wh, in
a person of his ^{at least} ^{rather} extent, narrowness
mind & I think, strong prejudices, have given
him a slightly prejudiced mistrustful feeling
at least not such a nice comfortable trust like

letter, to do so conveniently - I know you
 will not think the trouble too great, if you
 have rightly the power to spare for taking it.
 So I don't say any of that part of the subject
 for I know ~~you will~~ ^{from} all your loving but
 for her ^{already that} you will gladly give her as good a
 comfort that you can - I think I need
 hardly tell you dearest knowing as you do how
 very near dear we two have long been to each
 other) that any part of my letter which you liked
 to spare I did not mind yourself ~~standing~~ ^{standing} her,
 I did not mind her seeing - I say so this in
 case you should be too much occupied to write
 her much other mail & should have that by
 chance of this expedient - But I leave
 all entirely to you, in perfect trust & com-
 fort -

of course I shall myself too, write her all
 I can achieve in whatever time is left
 me, when I see quickly finished this - but
 its now part 3 so I have barely two hours ere
 all I want registered & posted quite sure
 of safety, must be despatched - This I shall
 send her a little more ^{and more} of the rain
 will keep off, ^{and never} by a later post -

I was only going to say all dear father & Jerry
 that except for those reasons I should have been
 most thankful to have ^{been able to} ~~told~~ them of my en-
 gagement to you darling - & all my joy in it - &
 the great change it of course implies in all
 my future life - Because they have been so
 dear & good to me ever since I left Natal -
 they send long thoughts for me in all their
 dear long letters & such long trust too, in not
 being pained or offended at my outburst shortly
 in answer or even not at all, as has after
 happened - & they are also been growing very

monthly to much more our back
with thoughts & ways - & so thoughtful
& long in doing all they can to help cheer
dear Louis - & are growing ever more more
to be real helpers & comforters to her, in
stead of the deep anxiety & even trials
as they used to cause us to think you
can understand how glad I'd be to be
rightly able to show them full trust
now - & let them too share my joy - & I
know they truly will - & they know of
it - Besides why for the reason that
it will explain to them many things we
must now be some what of a puzzle
such as my having been so little able to write
nearly all I will to them the few last mail
of course ~~part~~ ^{part} of this I longer tell to you
your dear, but also greatly from the
not being so well as usual in the great
gathering of suspense, a ~~the~~ ^{reaction of the} ~~the~~ ^{gilt} ~~the~~ ^{joy of}
dear letters when I've been so anxious & en-
tangled thus - But I will will write
more of this now - I know you will under-
stand my meaning - & I trust too that they
will also fully understand the reasons &
have kept me silent - when I can I
do at least tell them -

I do thank you so deeply darling for all your
trust in Louis; & all your willingness to endure
longer worry or suspense, - out of your dear un-
selfish love for us - & that for our happiness -
But I trust & hope darling that such will
not be your reward - but only the joy of knowing
what happiness you have given ^{me} ^{all} ^{the} ^{time} - & what con-
fidence & comfort your wife in that way ^{has} ^{known}
also given her - I only hope sincerely that
the vicar would like that & all your other letters safely.

the overland post. ⁴²⁵ I take that, I'll you
other letters, safely. to their destination; & that
before the return pleasure in home sailed
boat for you. take daily & my own
It must have been indeed a provocation to you
to have found the repetition ^{already} - that mail
too of all others

I dare not stay to answer your question ^{all these long weeks} further than
to thank you much for the bit of it did not - but
that I think there are reasons why we decide
then on remaining in Natal - I will hope to write
you then as well as all the rest of our part
history that you ask for in the next few
weeks in readiness for next mail -
& also what you say about one of them, coming to stay
with me, who as far as the joy of seeing them
& of assisting, the mutual pleasure with you &
they will find in getting to know each other - &
also of the knowledge of the pleasant health-
ful change to mind & body & spirits which
coming to us will be & all the good it will, in
that way too, do them dear things - and be
every real happiness to me & what I can
much rejoice in - But - you must not
think darling that I should need one of
their presence to make me happy - For this
is not true - & it is this knowledge which is to me
a strong & sweet assurance that I ~~am~~ love
you as I ought - I mean my having this feeling
that I could go with you anywhere, & be perfectly
happy & contented ~~that~~ cut off from the
sight of all who have my greatest joys & con-
forts in all my past life, with you alone -
So tho' I should have rejoiced much in
my union with you need not have se-
parated me far from them especially
from dear Louis - much on my own account
& still more for the sake of my able wish
to be of such far greater help & comfort

to them all 3, & specially to my ^{dear} son -
than I can hope or expect to be able to
greater disclaim from ~~them~~ - yet
I want you fully to know my darling
how it is for them not myself that I ~~mean~~
I mean because I possibly may not be able
to be the both or compare to them I so
long to give - or make them sharers of
our joy - in all the ways we could - ~~and~~
that I ~~look forward~~ ^{with intense} thankful rep. & joy - to
be yours only & ever
Oh my stupid head I can't say things as I
and I darnt stay to ever ~~mean~~ this -
But I feel such hope & joy that you
will understand what I meant to
say in spite of all -

I feel much for the uncertainty you were
in darling as to yr or rather our, worldly hopes
& prospects when you wrote - & for all
that had caused it - You can fancy how
I shall long to hear what the C. parliament ~~decide~~
as to the ~~happy~~ ~~abolition~~ - & how you have been
able to go on in the mean time -
I say long to hear - not on acct of its worldly ad
vantaging ~~per se~~ as you ~~know~~ ~~decide~~ - but
because of its of course so much ~~affecting~~
all yr future plans - & the time at which
you will think it right to let me join you
indeed you say all this latter thy is indeed
sweet to me to read - All I can say here
darling is that my longing for that meets come
is as deep - fervent as yr own -
I will tell you all you ask about the duties
we may require a part of my little share of our world
goods in reaching for vessel & sail -
Thanks much & love for all you say
all it -

I should so long to see your grammar dearest
- as we shall all be glad of success
publicly -

I indeed understood all you said & dare
- it was far from entirely unexpected
I do not think of Kumpke in truth & let
me stand soon than Oct - or earliest
Sept - but more of that present time
(I feel you know how I long to converse, fi
rely I may rightly do so -

Dare I forgive you for the things
crept into your dear letter to me - An
I wish to know all you think how my
dear & sad & gay I that I may be what
tiny help or comfort in them I can -
Remember how to my dearest pri
vilege, to cheer you sorrow as well
as share your joy - now -

How deeply grieved I am to see you were
just then suffering so in health I can
say - I can't bear to feel & dear is it
& far away - but mind you always, let
me quite know you ^{are} never the less - for
any certainty is worse than all the
horrors of doubt -

I must now say Adieu to you my own
most precious friend - with as I can to
leave you - God bless & help you dar
ling - with all my love
your own Germaine -

as I do now alone and so far more strongly
& wisely; because I sh^d have your wisdom to guide
as well as your love to strengthen me in it all.
so I sh^d by myself have no more th^t of taking
any steps (or rather propriety to go on daily that we
should jointly take steps) to in any way tie up
my money & put it out of our joint power - the
I sh^d have done, to do that with regard to myself
alone - I mean before you'd asked me -
But when dear Mr. Manaduke put it all before
me I felt that there was perhaps something in
what he said - & at all events that out of deference
to his superior wisdom it was worth con-
sidering & asking you all what I promised to do - for I
need hardly say that he of course put it all in
the truest & right way as regards us both -
I mean assuming no authority on any th^g of the
kind, merely putting me what was so almost
universally done in England that one at almost
any it was the stnd - I can't think of the word I want
- of public common sense - & leaving it to us both
to decide how far we saw it right to act this or
differently in part, - according to our circum-
stances at all -

So I was going to have told you all he said - asked your
opinion & considered it - but not being strong
enough for the winty of it earlier in this
hard month it was still not begun when I
saw him again last Saturday (Apr 26th) & he was
telling me how he'd asked his lawyers opinion all
one or two thys regarding it - & then himself offered
to write to you with it himself - This I gladly
accepted - for I want you to know him darling -
& tho I feel that a letter almost upon business
is perhaps not the most conducive way to
that end

Yet still it is better than none - & I think one
sees even in a business letter what a man is
to some extent - for winty & choice of words
even after speak so much, I mean to those
who notice those thys much - I think you do
as well as me - I mean equally - not ~~as well~~ ^{with} in this
other sense of course - for I daresay you may do it
even more - & also a great deal more truly -
I feel glad too, not to be obliged to spend the time
& strength which is wanted for writing to you - I don't
lose of so many other thys - on this - & also that
Mr. Manaduke will say it all so much more shortly
& exactly - & without much trouble to himself or
fellow either because he was in the law once
very many years ago & so its terms & intricacies, ^{now} ^{must} ^{come}
- now it ^{must} ^{come} pretty naturally to him -
I've never seen a letter from him to anyone he didn't
know all personally - so have just a slight fear
it may be a little stiff tho I do not think so - that
if it should be dearer I think I may ask you to
take my word for it that it is not meant to
could have been written more easily in the other
if you are in understand y saying this - & as I know
he's a person who wd not speak in a way he didn't
feel to please or avoid paining me or one - I think
its not unreasonable to believe that as I do -
to feel that I can trust him sufficiently well to
write to you all this freely safe that he will only
speak to you as I sh^d wish to be done to the
one who has above all others in this world
my entire love & respect -
But I shall send to you darling to tell me with
entire freedom quite what you think back of
his letter itself & also of what he says all the