

sheets 122 sent to Lucy
per June Mail
received back 14 July

200 vol for Shropshire Aug 562

My letter to you —

the next week enclosing
to read — on history —

Greenwood - Bearing - Kent - Sunday afternoon Sep. 13.

My darling - I do so want to be near you - for that
comforting help wh. you so greatly give me - & which
you alone can - I want so to see your dear face and
read in it full corroboration of all the loving
earnest words of my last precious letter from
you - wh. I've just been again rereading - Don't think
for one moment darling that I doubt either you or
them - Only it is so difficult to believe such
precious words - ^{at least to receive them fully} - Can't at times realize how one
can love me so - tho I feel deeply that no love short
of this could ever content me - unworthy as I am of
it, in what I am - tho perhaps not in what I long
to be - You don't know what good your words
that tell me how dear I am to you do me - & yet
while they are more precious to me than words
can say, I while I know that my real inner self
does believe them, because it says - yes this is
how man should care - this is like God meant
such love to be - ~~But~~ still there is in the other
part of me / the outer one wh. has been so tough
knocked about in past years, a craving for more
assurance - a trembly doubt, that will come of
can such blessedness be true for me - I don't
know if you can understand this - I think you
kith, because you do understand me so well - or
else I dare say your home life has been such as
to give you greater love, trust in intimate love
for you - than the contrary - I know you would
kindly tell you this darling - almost painful & cer-
tainly a very puzzled puzzle and all is - I feel that
even telling you as far as I can express it helps
to put it straight - & that certainly your dear
words of answer will -
and I don't like you not to know over all the crum-
ples, almost doubt, ridings feelings towards you
darling - I know you will feel what it means - this
did I not love so much - I think the best of me
at all - certainly - I am sure of the best
I know you will think either darling that I

ask for greater words of love or any thing
that - No, you must know too well, how tho-
roughly I feel with you about this - I mean about
the sacredness of some things which is so great - & which
one values all the more when they also pass our
lips from the feeling of how that sacredness takes
them up after said - But if you knew where
it was to have lived dreary miserable years with-
scarcely a bit of human love to brighten the
at least out of the bad ones soul needs - you
would I think understand ever tho' you are not a woman
& so have not our weaknesses, how I've come to
feel like this -

[illegible]

Hawthorn Vicarage - ² Easter Sunday April
20th 1862.

You see how far this month has gone with-
out my having begun my letter to you - my
own dear friend Heinrich - & it is only a fortnight
now till all must be again posted -
I fear I can give you little idea of how many
things have concurred daily to prevent my
beginning the very long letter to you but I so fully
purposed having ready before next mails ar-
rivals. but I know you will believe the fault
even if you cannot understand the how of
its occurrence - that even if I said nothing
of explanation you wd still feel sure
that will had not been wanting whatever else
not.

There was so very much I wanted to write to you
by this mail - One thing was a slight sketch of
our past history wd wd tell you all you wish
to know more easily in that more impersonal
form, than if I just tried to explain events
here & there only - for you know how things
are often involved in each other - so that
to account for one simple fact, the whole
itself related in a dozⁿ words, one has to put
several pages of explanation - so I think
this will be the best & easiest way to put it in.

I have left off & wish thou &
put sheets of history proper.

mother has outlasted for you all this -
For when that is the case I shall no longer keep
our engagement secret as regards my greatest
friends or near relations in England - because
I find that to do so w^d place me in a false &
hypocritical position as regards my things
& I know fairly that you will feel with me
that this w^d not be right - & therefore
that our first idea of not mentioning it to
any one save your dear Mother & her till
every thing is quite finally settled as to the time
when I may join you must be set aside -
I feel so sure that you will say I am right in
this - w^h is a great comfort to me - I indeed
& think had not I misled you by much I told
you of some members of my dear Mother's family
but w^h tho' I seriously believed to be true at
the time, a nearer knowledge & longer expe-
rience of them has shown me to be greatly
mistaken in - or at least to have greatly exag-
gerated a few tiny things of course, w^h there were
for it in a rather naturally over-sentimen-
tal spirit then, arising both from a peculiar
circumstances, & I think ^{also} from being so far
from well - ~~then~~ - I was going to say that had
I been able to see & therefore to give you a true
idea of some of the best & dearest members
of my Mother's family, & also told you all our
hard history & how much in my ways we
owe to them - you w^d ^{have} seen I was wrong in
my resolution - I told me so - As it is,
I feel it arises just simply from my own mis-
taken notions of things - but w^h had been
greatly caused by circumstances w^h I did

not have controlled - However there is for-
tunately still quite time to follow the right
as it now seems to me to be - & I know you
will wish me dearest & do this - even should
you think it a mistaken one - ~~tho~~ this
I hardly think very likely if I am able to tell you
all & ever sincerely all both of our part - &
also of the dear but long words & deeds I've
red from every of them in these past 4 months
of course it was right for me not to tell them
until I'd rec^d your answer to mine - & it is still
right I think not to tell them until I know
that you dear Mother has heard all it for
yourself - for you will quite understand
feeling that I w^d not have her do so first for
any other - & so tho' the precaution may
seem extreme - I felt it safer not to
speak of it save to the 2 or 3, whom I know
I can trust with not only not mention it
again, - but also not mind hearing of it
they w^d not tell - because as you have friends
in England - as my family & friends are rather
numerous & widely spread I felt it to
be just possible that it might reach the
ears of some one who knows you & your
family - & I w^d not willingly run over that
most slight risk of giving her pain -
but now I must get ready for tea - as the meal
& I ~~hardly~~ ^{hardly} drop in order to rest
more thoroughly - so good bye for your now
darling - oh I do look so for each postcard
much - hoping for your longed for letter - I think
it may bring good news - for I do feel so
very anxious ^{about} your health's dearest for you
were but very poorly I feel when you ended
your last letter - I can't seem to feel to you it's
a long time -

that I can't get he near to give up all the little
help - comfort wh I long & wish to do
After tea - to letters got - to return to history - I got
a return of post my kind answers for both Sister Katharine
& dear Mr. M. the latter I enclose - I had not told him
your name or any thing short - say all that little we met
as it was merely of the fact of my being engaged to some
one I cared for wh he knew - nothing more - & therefore
being naturally both a sincere & cautious person he says
but little in his answer - wh one feels very natural -
what he says at end about "whatever we may believe"
et cetera - refers to his knowledge of this Aunt Harriet (last
June) that I do not believe quite like others - I've
found out that neither does he do so - for he wrote me
a very kind letter all at the time from wh I learned
that fact in some degree - & also in our conversation
at Hawthorn the other day he spoke much more
freely on the same subject - apropos of the Essay &
the views & perceptions et cetera - apropos also
of my own ideas on those subjects - other things in
connection with this -

He came to Hawthorn on the following day to his letter I
mean - I felt it as my duty to take all the time &
trouble of running down from London or perhaps to see
me - I know you will appreciate it as heartily as
I do & you have seen the way it was done -
I asked dear Aunt Char to take him as they see liked a
- bout as two (you & I mean) - because he is so dear &
good - loving that there was not one word of all I
said to her, & I spoke very openly because I could
so entirely trust her, & therefore might, from much wish
her to feel entirely happy abt ~~her~~ ^{her} new future
And I knew I'd just feel some of her saying to him all
that and be receiving in the very nicest way - And
you will understand that I've been perhaps felt
shy of saying things to him, even things that I wished him
to know ~~perhaps~~ ^{perhaps} or that were necessary
to his right understanding of my position
tho I was very glad for him to hear them first
that way - well by & by he came up into
my room to see me & stayed talking with me - till it

2 BC 151 CB 118
it w'd go a long way with all the others in dear
Mama's family when the time comes that
I may really tell them too - I can put it
very easily into words I fear - but it was just
this sort of feeling - that showed it to both his
heart love & wisdom & kindness shown to us - to tell
him - & that that once done I did show it in
the same way to some else - I mean that I'd
feel perfectly right to the others in only telling them
of the more part of my great happiness - & say
that I knew they'd be glad to feel what was the
cause viz that dear Uncle M had known all
it some little time & that I had his cordial ap-
proval - I said then feel that they wd none
of them feel called upon to ask this or that one of
the anxiety wh they wd otherwise naturally
perhaps feel on my acct - know how alone
we girls are - I never compound to others -
& also that they wd have no right to do so,
if they did - & so that I'd feel quite justified
in keeping all I think right to my self, even
that care - tho tho one I don't expect
for there is scarcely one of them I mean of
Mama's own brother sisters that is not as
really nice & delicate minded as things as she was
herself - & that one Aunt Harriet (Mr Deeds)
I know sufficiently well now to keep at a wide
distance on my subjects wh are near my heart -
I think you will understand too clearly how
I wished on my own acct, I mean for my own
private satisfaction, that he sh'd know - for he
has been so true & dear a friend - guide & helper
to us that I wanted the comfort of feeling I had
his hearty sympathy with my new joys -
And I know I'd thoroughly paid his silence
like such men as I know that you dear

But spite of all these hopes & intentions
I've never touched it since - who speaks
pretty plainly as to how I've been - not till I
doubt mean that - as you must be a man
was all if or me my darling - for you will
see presently when you know all that
there is no need to be - but just rather
weak & as fit for but little writing - - -

Darwin stopped me here & other things prevented
my recommencing afterwards as it is now Thurs
day afternoon May 1st - but no letter come yet -
I sent the mail late - I still hope each time
I hear the P^{ost}man foot that he may stop
here & bring them - & this constant suspense
prevents my fully going to sleep each night as
I think will be the case were of mental rest -
for I've begun Dr Purpells medicine yester
day - am already better for it -

I shall enclose a kind little note of his w^h I read
on your home here the other night - & it
will show you what he thinks of me - I
mean how well, in spite of my poor line of all
this month - He had told me much the
same on the 26th Apr (a few days previous) when
I went to see him for the first time since
coming to London - & I believed him - at least all
the real common sense part of me did -
but for most of the next 3 days I was ^{feeling}
very weak & poorly & it gave my head such an
uncomfortable feeling that I thought it better to
write & tell him of this as Andrew thought
somewhat influential his choice of
mental medicine as soon as I was ready to take
it - this I knew that they I can be better in

a few days time when I was feeling stronger
& also when I'd got really rested for the over
fatigue of journey there & at it - & I did
not expect him to write this because I felt
his time is so valuable - but I found that he
wrote not on your letter for your house that
even for I was able to go after all -

I shall send you too his & Mrs Purpells fine
notes after good time to tell of the good
news last mail to me - for they knew
what suspense I was in - tho of course not
quite the same as I had all its reasons - so
you would thank any of what she says in
that note as regards you - for I must have
to do with some hypothesis of her own - one
for which knowledge I'd give her no foundation -
I nearly had said in a talk I had with her just
before leaving London & when we'd become real
friends - that there were reasons why you ~~and~~
not see right to answer as I hoped - but did
not of course say what -

I value her note because she is a person who is
generally very reserved - says a good deal than she
thinks & feels - certainly the latter - & you know
how from those people one feels a few sincere words
mean a great deal -

But I must not run on talking to you clearly until
I've done the important history part of letter -
but must find time down a few minutes again -
for I'm not equal to much writing at a time just now
I don't mean I can't do it - for I can quite but that
the consequences would be bad & I don't like to do any
thing but may return by getting better as fast as possible
from you & my darling - so I am very careful
in all that I can find room -

The next day after 3 last letter had gone I was very poorly
'had & keep quite quiet - in the dark - for for the
overstrain to mind & body of the previous few days
of nerves had all got - to that extent that that there
was nothing for it but to keep perfectly quiet if
I wished to get better instead of into a still more
uncomfortable state - Well I did so - & was
all of Sunday afternoon to scribble two needful
letters to Uncle Manaduke - the Indian Superior
here - for I think as I was too poorly to write to Dr
Russell I ought to come to London & be near him
again for a while while to get set to rights again -
& I wished to secure a visit so as to meet
Uncle Manaduke who I felt not possibly be
going out of town for Easter & perhaps not re-
turn again - As I knew he was wishing to let
his home - otherwise I mean if it were equally
enable to see him - I think of postponing my visit
here till after Easter - both that I not stay as
long as possible of my hunt of deer & that then
& Uncle Henry were in enough must to wish &
also that the fortnight I intended to spend in
London should fall in with the next mail
time - as you know being in London then give
me just 2 extra days for writing - no shall
soon to one old story & with very much to say
reverted to see Uncle Manaduke because I felt it
right to tell him all you darling - I mean of our
engagement - & not feel up to duty what I had
wished all it I supposed do so much more - if
possible - & besides my feeling of its being owed to
him as the one who has taken my poor father
place to us as much as possible, & been one of
our greatest helpers & comforters during the last 4 or 5
trying years of his life - I also knew that dear
Uncle Henry would wish it - & that when I had once
received his sanction to the step I had taken for
this I felt some of doing, knowing his very liberal
& sympathizing mind - both that they will feel
quite at ease & rest on my account - & also that

11 Bloomfield Terrace. Parkside. S.W.
No 5 B.C. 151. C.B. 48
April 30th 1882.

My own darling.

I've been so hoping the mail
letters will arrive all today - but they haven't - &
it's getting so near the day for posting - that I
will at once begin my regular letter to you (I've
already written a scrap or two when I was able for
it) - You can imagine how I'm longing for your
letter darling -
I think as I may not both time & power for days to
you nearly all I wish (for I've not been very well
this month - & so not able for the writing I've con-
stantly wished to prepare to the best of my power
ready for this mail) that I'd better give you a succinct
history of this past month first of all - so that
you may have at least a general idea of things -
--- I had to lie down a bit here & now continue
being rested again -
You know I sent 3 last letter to you April 4th - in the
noon as I had to send it to a post room looking off
to get it properly registered - as now that our letters
are so very much to each other I don't like to run a
risk of mine to you being lost these colonial corre-
spondence - I then sat down & wrote to him till post
went out - about two hours - but you can con-
ceive how little I achieved - that time this writing
my father - compared to the quantity I had to
say to her if possible - My great comfort in it
all has been that I knew you'd give her
news of me if able - & that I'd be happy to
my short letter I mean -
Well as soon as my most unfinished letter
to her had gone I just sat down & wrote home
more fully her how it had happened & how long
I was all it - hoping that this will be the beginning
of a real long letter to you of this month's mail -

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 proposing to you any such 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 I asked me -

But when dear Uncle 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 about I promised to do - for I
need hardly say that he of course put it all in
the truest view & right way as regards us both -
I mean assuming no authority or any th^g of the
kind; merely just tell 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 it -

so I was going to have told you all he said - asked you
opinion & wished it - but not being strong
enough for the wit of it earlier in this
past 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 th^{gs} 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

Get still it is better than none - I think one
sees even in a business letter what a man is
to some extent - for witty & choice of words
even after speak so much, I mean to those
who notice those things much - I think you do
as well as me - I mean equally - not ~~as well~~ in the
other sense of course - for I daresay you may do it
over 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 - de-
siring of so many other th^{gs} - on this - & also that
Uncle Manaduke will say it all so much more shortly
& exactly - without much trouble to himself dear
fellow either because he was in the law once
very many years ago & so its terms & intricacies
flowed out of him ^{much} pretty naturally to him -
I've never seen a letter from him to anyone he didn't
know at 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 warmly with the spirit
of you you will understand my saying this - & as I know
he is a person who will not speak in a way he didn't
feel to please or offend anyone - I think
it not unreasonable to believe that as I do
to feel that I can trust him sufficiently well to
write to you all this - feel 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 both of
his letter & myself & also of what he says all the

may be admissable our doing all my little money -
If I see time at all there are a few things I will
at I want to say to you. Reasons I mean - but I
would say to you then now because I think he
is sure to do so - But shall if I see time by & by -
came my little those who were stronger than
my noble those who influenced me most in life
him ask you - & I'd like you to know quite
all about it if possible - But should I not be
able for it without taking time more needed for work
of other things this mail. I shant much mind
as I feel I can trust it all to your ready un-
derstanding of what I shd be sure to meet & feel
all it all - & therefore that you will quite enter
into my share of this - I know you will & I tell
you all - - -

May 5th /62 - I've just finished
the almost luminous end of sheets
entitled (as if in ridicule) Concise History
I want you not to read them like you
have read before for it - & then to
tell me quite what you think - & also
if you'd read them without great
difficulty - I've had to write them
in such tremendous haste that
I fear they must cause you some
trouble to decipher - I know
with my head as it is just now I
won't read them thro' for \$10 or
more - tho' my own work -
But I won't help them - I feel you'd
rather have them as

It was time for us to prepare for dinner -
He was so kind dear fellow - I wish I'd given you
any adequate idea of how nice he was about it all -
seemingly to understand things so well - & being so heartily
glad for my great happiness - & speaking with such
entire mischance & trust of you - You can under-
stand how I valued that - Not that whatever
he'd that we had made the least difference to my
beliefs - knowledge of you dear - you know
that by your own heart - only that it'd have
been very painful for one I'm so loved & trusted
as him - The greatest comfort of it was of course
the knowledge that I have that he says what he
means - & I think nothing else - so I'd so thoroughly enjoy
all his kind words knowing they were meant -
When I say I'd spoken very openly to dear Aunt Char
I need scarcely say that this does not mean about
those things which lie between our two selves - God alone -
But only all how I got to know you & all that, & what
friends we've been all along - at least just enough
of it to make her understand our present position
rightly -
Dear Aunt Hannah ^{called} spoke to me at some length
about business arrangements - I mean as to what
to do that we'd be most wise & right to do with a little
bit of money for both our sakes - I mean you & mine
darlings - I need hardly tell you that this part
of it was a thing I'd never thought about - at least never
in connexion with ^{me &} you - tho' I had in former
years when dear Louie was about to marry (as we
then thought) recognized the wisdom of ^{George} ~~her~~ doing
what our uncles advised them - But somehow
in connexion with our two selves I was an
idea we had never entered my head - I suppose be-
cause I just feel so deeply that you - I should be truly
one - one both in regard to each others loves & trust - love
too in earnestly trying to put the right in our duty
to that, first of all - & so that we try together
to keep all money among the other things - ~~as far as~~

than not at all — how I have felt over
 more before trying to answer your
 most dear letter rec^d abt noon last
 Tuesday (this is kindly your ^{midnight} —
 takes in afternoon — my needful
 scribble to be done done I have just
 as quiet as I can the few things
 I can omit any this two days
 I know you — with pardon the
 how it is done — knowing your
 haste —

I can't say how I thank you & dearly for
 your precious letter — It gives me
 inexpressible comfort & gladness &
 pleasure too — you can say how deeply
 & how gratefully I receive it of your own
 family is —

I am so glad you told your dear mother
 all about us thus now — & I shall long
 to go & see her & all your near & dear relatives
 & friends — if she asks me — I quite
 think she will for your sake —
 I quite understand & sympathize with you
 all with in the world of you
 there — & don't of course blame you
 for that idea of how to have you
 this I own I am very thankful to

never alter change ~~your~~ plans I am
happy it will be with you
last mail - I wish to have
happy to me to go there in my
disguise - I go dear Mother -
conclude me about it I shall be glad
to see your sister too - I mean if she
does it too - I know you darling
with me in my daughter -

I shall hope daily now for a few
lines from her - I know or rather I
hope has kept me so far from
my German as I wished - tho I
have done so to some extent & I
am sure I have not met with the best
of the world & I have sent me
to the heart - that I must write
in French to her (as you see to be)
that it is easier to her than English
tho I don't doubt must be able
to decipher both the letters & mean
of her note when I come -
I shall be anxious or impatient
for it tho because I feel she
may have much to prevent her
doing it at once - & then I can
trust your Mother for any