

tell I know that something has been settled for
you as we hope - It is great comfort to me
to see you are so rightly wire careful for
your precious health - in not retreating where
it is concerned I mean - how great I can hardly
say - it would ~~have~~ made me very miserable had
you thought it right to do otherwise - at
least as unhappy - I did not be ~~quite~~ miserably
contented by this but wrong - I mean wrong done
as such - not merely mistaken right, if one may
to speak -

I can so well understand the dentist's hair up
you much for the time even without pain -
for I've had much experience of that kind in
the last few months - & scarcely know any
thing which tries me physically as the jar to all
our nerves that stopping is - I mean when many
years ago I did not mind it a bit - but now
it affects me greatly - But of course one will put
up with a good deal at the hands of a good
dentist & for permanent good - but it is in-
deed most aggravating if one feels so little sure of
its success & even then health is often so far gone
as a consideration - I know Dr. Russell did not
let me have a tooth attended too for a long while
until he saw I was fit to bear it, & says it has
brought me back so very much in my weak
state -

So darling don't put yourself to any pain or
trouble to get teeth put in on my account -
it was never how you looked but what you
are, I mean what your soul is, that I cared for -

I don't mean that its earthly habitation is
not dear to me too - but that you must
not for one moment daring were yourself about
being what you call high on my account - You never
could be so while your soul looks out of those dear
eyes in the earnest way it does & at times I
have seen make you look beautiful, not alone
to me - tho I know well that so far as features go
no one would ever think of applying that term or any
approach to it to either you or me - But then
as I think I've told you I had always an aversion
to handsome men generally so called - & as to me
why I feel, so long as I've your dear love, & you do
not mind it, I never shall either now - tho I must
own that in past years it has been ever pain
ful to me to be so far from that real beauty wh
I think one so longs to see in women - But then
I know for one thing that I was even far plainer
then than now - & for another, that I've come to realize
more - more that it is not each others faces people
care for but their inner selves - & that a face how
ever plain is beautiful & pleasant to the eyes of those
who love it -

I don't mean of course that people do not look better
with the complement of teeth they were originally given
(tho I have not been able quite to make up my
mind as to how far one wd like having other ones
put in for that reason alone) - but that I think
it not worth any real sacrifice - of health, time,
other such things that one can at the moment but
if we are for that reason silly -
of course where health or spirit is of a higher
real thing is concerned it is all entirely

different - but I mean I want ^{you} not to
take any trouble or pain or inconvenience ex-
pense as to it, ~~on my acct~~ -

I don't know if I told you that I am going to get some teeth this summer in place of the 8 I've lost - in the last 6 months - wh. by all back teeth have left me dead off for needful grinding powers - specially as they happened to be all top ones on one side & all lower ones on the other. So I am in one place, I have for the last 2 months - more have been not to the same there in front wh. about any 15 below me a thing for myself I feel it is necessary to health - & also the preservation of the teeth that are left - as they will soon follow their brethren if all the strain & dash operate - speaking felt so unequal upon the front ones - I don't know yet however what the clearest dentist to whom Dr. Knapp introduced me will say as to permanent fixture of them but I believe nearly all quadrants (and good ones) recommend the plan of always putting them in cold water at night - to make them keep their color & at - as of course they have not the natural means of doing so that teeth wh. are a little ragged -

My darling you must not mind for one mo-
ment on my account what you speak of -
I do indeed hope it - may be a means of helping
you to greater health in other ways - and I can in-
deed feel how great the present discomfort
may be - And it would be indeed madness
to strive against what seems to be probably one
of Nature's remedial actions - except of course

Bozney Hill, Maidenhead - Berks. (Mr Fowler)
Monday Morning June 2nd 1862 -

My darling

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I must first premise that you are not to think me ill because I write in pencil - or rather with 'ink-pencil' said to be indelible & as I sincerely hope may prove so - I write all my English (ie Euro-
pean) letters this way now, because then I can do so either by drawing (as now) or else curled up in an easy chair in whatever position rests me most - wh writing in ink w^d not allow me - & now shall begin to answer the precious letter wh^{ch} reached me safely (in both its parts) yesterday morning - I've got it by me to re-scribe the 2^d time & find as time is so short that I'd best answer it as I read off with understand the balance, as I leave off from time to time -

I put my own darling let me tell you of what
what deep interest to me are all the things
things (2 large ones too) you tell me of your dear
-ly life - how very dear & sometimes this letter
of yours is from the way in which you tell me so
natural of all things just as they happen, as you
-nt were you talk to me (oh don't I long for that
time to come) - No my darling - I won't be a -
-larned about you, on acct of your then position
I mean - I have too much trust in you &
also in the God who has been so good to let
this of course I can't but be anxious tell

wanted to ask you abt this book after recd
that letter - it is this great change from down
& painful long to happiness & trust - but the
dear letter brought me in makes what I write
before as dim in my memory - the causes of it
have been as it were blotted out - I don't mean
that it shd - wont be of deep interest to me to
learn all you think of that book, as of all
things - but the need for it has passed away - most
happily - You must not think this, this is
oblivion in the present instance, that I gene-
rally forget, or shd be prompted by reference & answers
to the letters I have since written you - for they
belong to the present time, to the me & you that
now are - & are mostly almost as vivid to my
mind as the day I wrote them -

mind as the day I wrote them -
as for my opinion of it we go ashore in Carl
later I wish only to say that it's a book I greatly
like & admire as a whole - tho of course with
its krazz faults - but those I think are nearly all
minor ones -

minor one -
 Yes I think Rattanael was sadly mistaken
 in the course he took - tho I think I can un-
 derstand Rege a good man & do so when under
 such & exceedingly painful circumstances & with his
 peculiar character -

Excuse my starting I do indeed feel with all you
say about our mutual confidence - & of the perfect
right, & indeed at times duty you may have not to
tell me things such as ^{these} you speak of - & have only
this feeling that I do trust in God I always shall,
entirely trust you in it all -

You dont know what intense joy it is to
me darling to see I've made you happy - per-
haps that is too presumptuous a word to use
but I know you'll understand what I mean & it

I'm ~~so~~ glad you like real heart don't dislike my
photographs - what you say about them is quite
right, I mean as ^{to} their difference -

You are quite right darling in my being very different
now to what I was when you first asked me - only
that the difference is real & not merely apparent.
I don't mind saying it - I mean owing to being much
~~more~~ like what I would be now, tho' still so very
far from it - because it is your dear love and
trust that have been its happy cause - & this
w^{ill} be a proof to me, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~love~~ ^{love}
that it is God who has given us to each other.

You don't know what your love has been & is to me - how precious, & how guiding, cheering & sustaining - & I cannot tell you - but know by words that in adequately say it - but you see it partly in its effects - & I don't doubt

starting of a love being of marvelous help to you
too - utterly unworthy, as in one sense I am, tho
it should be so - because I can't help think that
God has meant this one great love of life, should
be of unspeakable help & comfort to those ^{whom} He thus
joins together & all this adds so much to a trust
that all is & will be with us, & that we
may hope even in this life; cheered as it must
be, to realize this our great blessing - God's love
you may indeed ^{I think} trust it will make my time &

lasting happiness too - you may be sure
it will - for I think what God does is never
imperfect - it is only man who mars his work
- I feel that none ~~but~~ God & have made
us by what we are to each other now -

I wish hope to speak to Dr. Russell on Wedne-
day as to the probability of going to your
corner should you in your next letter
wish it - I mean ask it for I know you
wish it darling as much as I do, yet it is
feasible - I wish hope to Sunday to write
you what he says & more about all this -
also of how I have been this past month -

But I am delaying too long telling you of the
great joy at your dear Mother (whom I think of as
my dear Mother too now & who has given me leave
to call her so) has given me by her most kind
loving welcome to me, since I last wrote
to you - I can't say how my precious her
letters are to me - but I think you will know
intuitively how I feel about it - especially after all
I've written on this subject in earlier letters -

Her dear letters & also two very kind ones from your
dear little sister, I mean Anna - & most kind mes-
sages from your other sister & three brothers in
Germany have made me feel so very happy -
the idea of going do I hope to see them all
my soon - & directly Dr. Russell lets me ask
him to be a week or fortnight hence -

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by removing the causes of it as far as possible -
& I can fancy how very far right diet may be of
avail here - No darling - I never noticed
it - But you need not have feared - for I think
if you have ~~seeing~~ fear, or rather view of mind,
when reading your dear letter, you will have seen no-
thing that will have grieved you - I love you your-
self far too much, & trust you too entirely to have any
that a feeling of the future, even in the least, affected
it - though I appreciate the truth & love
& trust in my trust will make you say it all, very
deeply - Yes I too long for the time you speak
of when I shall be sitting by your side then my words can
say & feel the waiting, really long at times - I've been
casty about in my mind as to how we may shorten it
if that be possible - but rather fear as far as I'm
at present imperfectly thought it out - that this may
hardly be done rightly - if this is the case - I shall
wish that you took away with me that we would try to do
it at all - however I will speak more of this later
on - I quite understand your puzzle in
answering all to life for a life - for I was very puzzled at
myself when I wrote in question - but the thing
I chiefly ^{then} ~~now~~ ^{now} only ~~just~~ ^{just} ~~to~~ ^{to} know, is what you
have told me - i.e. what you think of its general
tone & the view of - taking of life & love - & you
are quite right (I mean I think so) all the individ-
uality of love - & in not comparing ours to theirs - I don't
think this was what I wanted to ask you - tho I care
at all about for it, so far back, & with such entire
alteration to a painful doubting feeling as to whether
there are words said often well enough as you & I
dear letter brought me - I never should have

with help from the dictionary to make out your
dear Mother's letters & even to glean their gene-
ral meaning from some extent by my eyes alone
yet I could not as yet converse in at all
the I not understand to a degree what was
said to me - However I must hope much
from such, it up orally when I get to Germany
& I feel sure your sister with kindly help me -
I feel there is no one in pretty abt it because
I could not & cannot help it & so I try not - but
I am in the bottom of my heart more sorry than
I can say - chiefly as regards your dear Mother
However as it has not been my fault but
merely that of weakness & that I did not
help I feel I may trust it all in higher hands
than ours - & that no real harm will come
to any of us from this my present great ig-
norance & utter want of power to speak or
write it - & so you must not mind either
please my darling - Now I must
hurry this by & drop for I've been writing all this
before getting up - as the early morning is both
the quietest time & the one when my heart
is most itself - & it gets light so deliciously
early these long summer mornings - I went
to bed very early last night on purpose, & woke be-
fore the morning so I've had a much longer time
you see with you my own darling - but it has
now struck 9 & we drive out by 11 - & there are
some old Staffordshire friends along

to luncheon - dear Aunt Lizzie kindly asked
them on & sat - as you see I must only say
goodbye now -

June 3 - early morning - I send much
loving thanks my darling for all your dear
comforting words of love & care for my dear
Sonia - & the other two - I can't tell you how
precious & comforting what you say of Sonia is
to me, confirming to as it does my unwavering
belief about her - I do indeed wish deeply
you & I know each other - I feel sure your
loving friendship & sympathy will be of
real help & joy & comfort to her - & I can see
by her letters to me that she already likes & trusts
you much - for she is quite willing to give
me to you & I believe I'm the most precious
thing she has left on earth now poor darling
so you will see how very much of love & trust
in you this argues -

It is so sweet to me to see how you care for
my dear Sam & Judy, too -
I've not dared begin reading dear Louis
'Chronicle' letter - telling me all the events
(at least to a degree) of March - & cannot
quite tell what particular anxieties dear Sonia
had just then - all Julia - I need to keep all
my small powers of head & mind just now for
writing to have obeyed some request not to
think of beginning her 'Chronicle' letter till
after Mary's departure - But I can hardly
guess ^{as yet} how much she had to try her soul

them - I fear I did wrong to tell them
- I am in not asking you to let me tell them be-
fore - but for ^{at least} my heart was sorely
wrecked - puzzled & ^{at least} in a short - that ~~for~~
time at ~~the~~ ^{at least} ~~hand~~, it was the 1st mail
by which I ^{at least} have ^{rightly} done so - I fear
rather I hardly knew till last mail (and
this present one) how ^{truthfully} ~~truthfully~~ ^{the} ~~has~~
both become - But I believe I can
quite rely on their love for giving me, if
I was wrong - About what you say
darling as to breaking the news of our engage-
ment to my father I enclose a letter to him
which please read & tell me quite (as far as
time & things conveniently allow you) what you
think of it - You will not fear paining me by
any remarks upon it - because I know we love
& trust each other ^{too} much for that to happen - &
I shall of course really care much to know
quite what you think of this - & the value -
even your blame darling - for I know it will
be given me undeserved - I dare say many
things or at least several, in a letter may seem
strange to you - but I ~~think~~ I must only touch
on the chief one here - i.e. why I ask his consent
Now I perfectly understand your not doing
this darling, for besides other reasons, I think
to do so would be to imply that you meant to
abide by his answer, which is not - I will be true
or right - since I believe that we both feel
& trust most deeply, & with the earnest pur-
pose of our whole hearts, that no

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All then love - goodnight to you
dear John makes the thought of you & Bonn
quite home like to me - it feels as next best to
what say you - dear Bonn will be - I know
how glad you will be for me & that it is so -
Our dear Mother's letter make me love her
dearly - feel that she is indeed all I believed
from what you said, that she would be - I see
seldom read such singularly satisfying letters
I mean such as make us at once, ever wish
and knowing them, ~~would~~ ^{would} to rest with love
& trust upon the writer - I long to know
her well - dear Anna too I must like in
her letters - do you know in many little ways
they remind me so of you? I wonder if you
taught her English - I was truly glad to
read in her last letter that the news had come
of your dear eldest sister's marriage - knowing
particularly how glad you will be, that you will
know it by this mail -

You can think how very sorry I am & have
been able to get on so little with learning
German - I don't mean from want of capacity
for it as a language for it is easier to me than
any one who has tried to learn, this so be-
lief & that know that I am in some ways
not clever at such things - but it has
been sheer physical inability for that or
any study which has so kept me back -
Forgive me because tho' I am quite able

who in spite of all the cruel ~~deeds~~ we
we experienced at his hands even we
have seen at times - very rarely, for me
- but much oftener in this last year
21/4 -

You know I feel that as his daughter
I can ask for his ^(not being a daughter) consent ^{for I drag the}
honestly - tho' I mean to be my darling's
wife just the same, without it - Only
that it wd be a real deep gladness
to me to receive it - tho' more per-
haps for my dear Mother's sake & for
that of the change it wd argue in
him from fellow - than from any more
personal motives - tho' even as to these
(last, I do long for it - for whatever his
faults, a Father is a Father still & I
shd feel deeply his sanction to my marriage
as such - however sadly different - he has been
- I must fear still partly is - from all one
father for is a father & a man -

I know too how deeply offended at dear
Louie's not asking it when she was (as we hoped)
about to marry George - a rather perhaps I
shd be more strictly right in saying at her for
dear George, or both - I forget why, I dare ~~say~~
I trust of memory to speak accurately &
about it all, tho' I know of general impres-
sion is right - therefore I say it in what

I say to you of it shd appear strange or
wrong you will please conclude darling
that the fault is in my memory, or in the
omission of various circumstances - the ~~part~~
of them present, wd wd explain the seeing
wrong, whatever it be - for I know that they
both tried hard to do right all I think
mainly succeeded -) in saying at her (long)
telling him she did not ask it - & why -
But her position was very different then - she
had to assert her rights - & in the relations in
she wd rather then stand to each other it wd
have implied meant obedience / false / had
she asked his consent - But I feel that mine
is very different now - he turned us from
his house, hoping we shd go to England quite
out of his way - but wd quietly established
our abode in the very same town (as we had
determined to stay to stick deep as there) & have
succeeded thank God in hindering all the
unkind thing people said of us, & covering
the many other difficulties of our strange
position - & now we are as regards him
in a perfect firm & independent posi-
tion - & therefore I feel that this is
no coming on my part - but merely
as to speak an act of outside duty -
(not to say almost of grace or conde-
scension for my part) & as it is were
an offer of civility & friendship for

the future, forget & forgive all that past -
I think I told you that I wrote to him how
fellow on this latter subject ere I sailed
for England - asking forgiveness for any thing
in which I had not acted towards him as
I ought for I knew I had not been
perfect towards him the more I
tried - & saying how utterly & entirely
I forgive all I suffered at his hands, the
truth it of course the gentlest words I could -
Because I knew that
did I die while away he'd be troubled
to have a few words of love & pardon
from one who was gone - & whom he
had once been my friend of - & I did not
then mean the letter to be given him
after a death or before his own poor
fellow and he'd be first to get that
while I was away - & therefore I could
write. Surely that we have been in
possible under any other circumstances
fully to that it was only for his eye
& Gods - But circumstances & other
things after I left made me
believe dear Louisa send it to him for
me - I tell you all this dashy (tho
at the risk of repetition if I've spoken
of it before) to enable you to see the
ground I now stand on as regards
him - with a plain much

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nothing shall prevent our union even
outwardly but our creators will - our in-
ward one, thank God, even now, now
but He can - Therefore as you, &
even you darling who know me I think so well,
not be surprised & startled at just my
having in part done so - but I think you
will understand it can I manage to state
3 reasons, wh I wish to do succinctly -
but firstly you will see that it is more his
approval & sanction that I have asked, than
his permission - i.e. would in the for-
mer, not - latter sense - & I think I
have no when implied in my letter
that it does even in the least - mean the
latter sense, or that I sh^d for one moment
act differently if he with holds it -
But did you know what a proud & he
umptious & imperious character my father
is you will fully understand my bridging
this latter fact as little forward as pos-
sible - i.e. leaving it quite alone - tho'
I have (& know I tried hard) I have used
no terms which imply the contrary - and
I knew that if I put it in the least ag-
gessive form - & so roused his pride &
anger all hopes of his better nature con-
quering was over & so I have tried (tho'
I feel how imperfectly) to leave that in
quiet alone & appeal only to the latter
& ~~as I tried to speak only to that better~~
self wh I know he has some where. &

yet without the shock to his pride
(at I am so very anxious not to wound
a friend unnecessarily) yet it will give
him to see by the Cape standard on which
that it had come thro you - You can
imagine how I mean - that he who as yet
does not know (I therefore cannot write)
you darling will be perhaps pained &
shocked at the photograph of one who is
a perfect stranger in one sense to him
having read this letter, will necessarily touch
on some tender ^{difficult} points

I don't venture to say, or would tell your
writings to him darling - I mean as to whether
or no it is advisable - for I think that
in all these things the teaching of our own
hearts is best - & believe that should
it be right & a duty for you to do so, you
will feel it some natural to you for
to read both your dad's history of his &
own part - living poor fellow - & by his
recent letter to him of to write. the of course
it must necessarily I suppose become
what difficult in the execution - I
mean that it will come natural to try
& I know well that respect for his age & pity
for his many sorrows (this in part his own fault
poor poor fellow) & your own good heart

with deliberation you darling to say what
is necessary in the best & least pain-
ful way -

As regards the time for telling him I rebe-
fore said I leave it entirely to you - but
I wish your answer here your dear word
about it - I felt it very possible that you ^{must}
wish him not to know, until your plans &
prospects at the Cape of darling were so at-
tached one way or another, that his influ-
ence if inimical, exerted for unkind ends,
or even that of mere public chatter & gos-
sips, should have no power to injure
you or them - I say you for sake of clear-
ness - ~~should~~ to prevent any confusion in your
mind with the other pronoun (it is what I al-
ways use in my heart) not naturally made
as to my sister (or my former) position in nature
wh you not (that) meant he is in part affected
and therefore I've taken every precaution in my
power to prevent even the chance of his
learning it from any but me - you - and no
earlier than you think right - For I don't
think in the position I stand to him, there
was any need or duty to tell him this to our
(you & my) certain or even very probable in-
jury as it would be only for his fault poor fellow
that we did not love him implicitly &
from the first - But I feel that
by the time this reaches you (midday July)

our probable future at the Cape with home
all been decided - at least I trust so - &
therefore that if this is the case - our only
real reason for not telling him, at least the
only one I can see there may, thousands miles
off, will be past -

Yes darling I think some people will pro-
bably misjudge us very much - but I feel
we need not care for them as long as we know
that all is right between us, before the God
who made us both, & who only knows, & even
can know all - I know its for me you
care in darling - but this I was so very weak
& trembling last post about it - & as have
given you just a natural cause to be anxious
for me, from what I told you then; yet
I ~~now~~ feel so strong & brave in your dear
love & trust that I think I have reason to
hope, & indeed feel possible but entire
trust, that I ~~shall~~ now stand on with-
stand, any pain or difficulty with prophets
(which I don't think probably) and arise to
either of us out of the fact of our en-
gagement being known - I have already told you in my last letter how
why I have felt it right to tell all these
of a near or dear ones in England when
I don't trust not to mention it ~~to~~
as in Natal until after this mail
by which I send you a letter for Father
which have safely gone - & the

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that we otherwise been strange &
unexplainable in the letter I enclose -
the rec'd letter by hand of the did not answer
it but the latter I never expected - indeed
the former was far more than I dared
have much hope of - but he spoke of it
afforded to Fanny (who did not know any
of all I put in) somewhat thus - that
he'd see a letter from dear Jeremiah which
had given him both pain & pleasure
& asked kindly after me / & health
I feel I mean / -

I need hardly say darling that I give the let-
ter entirely into your hands to send when ^{how}
you like - knowing that you will not detain
it without some good & good reason -
I will put it in a directed envelope so that
you may send it 'per se' if you like - or enclose
it in yours, or yours in it - should you
think good to write to him yourself - or
even darling to erase any thing in it - with
your greater nearness to him with in
time & space should have given you reason
to believe were better left unraised - I can
trust my darling with it all -
If you should think it best not to write yourself
then perhaps better enclose a letter to him
& she will let my Father have it safely

with any the - & under any circumstances
but - feeling it impossible (not probable)
that dear Mr. Anderson the very dear
& good - & also in some ways very
noble & trustworth - may have been
injured a little by this long companion-
ship of ~~these~~ unworthy sister &
so be not sure to keep a secret
from her any knows she is quite
for any one else - & in this case
I am told how not to give them
any letter at all, until it is,
thru my father, or your wish,
a permission - generally known
soon with I know be able to
Judge of this - for she is my dear
sister for those she loves - &
I quite trust that dear Mr. An-
derson is still her own good
beautiful self & so that thy kind
both know of my happiness in
my case of end July - for know
I felt it a wrong to all these years

love - friend ship not to tell them
what they wd so greatly care to know
directly, I might, & had written
to my father - who I feel had, if told at
all by us, the right to be told first -
at least first after my dear sister
& I feel by lady Mrs. McCulloch of our
home, to keep it back if we
could, that humanly speaking all
has been made safe & respect it -
I shall put a piece of paper
loose into my father's letter only
to ask him not to mention
our engagement again - in case
you shd wish him to dis this -
if not, wh I think most pro-
bable, specially as we wd not
feel my dear Mr. Anderson requiring
please take it out & burn it -
if you send my letter to him thru him
please leave it open as I shd
like her to see it, knowing how
anxious she will be

to know what chance it has of
being successful - I have of course
no copy - I saw of the first 2 or 3 sheets
w^h I wrote in pencil -

My head rather slipped - aching about as
I've been awake thinking & writing since
dawn almost - so I'll leave off & drop in
hope of being brighter by & by to say the
few more needed things my darling
after w^h I must write to dear Louis -
as 3 letters to my father & the Sanders
sons have made me rather back-
ward with that - but I don't like
it - they were duffies too -

Afternoon - I'm just sorting & doing up letters
& enclose to him - it's all - & also finally took
over mine to my father - I have to enclose
the letter from Aunt Maggie to him, to you also -
because my father must not have it
take some time as mine - I've fastened it
down that she gave it me open, to enclose
fully open with like me to do best -

The 23^d was a birthday you must know
that was I refer to in my letter to him
The explanation - but I've just been obliged

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I hope they will even after that fulfill
my generally & properly wished that it
should still not be told again that when
it was likely it wd be gossiping at
at Cape or Natal, still I feel they nat-
urally may not perhaps require so
careful, when the more urgent
reason for their silence is over - so
I think it wd be best dearest child
you let our father know of it, ei-
ther by letter or word or both
by the next ^{if possible} mail if you cannot
by this - as yet - none know
it at Natal from me but my
sisters - but I write I have written
by this present mail to take the San-
dersons of it - i.e. Mr & Mrs Sanders
son - to the exclusion of her sister
Mrs Carter (of whom I once wrote you)
& of everyone else - under seal of
entire secrecy in short - until
Louis shall give them leave from
me or you to speak of it - I think
that I can trust Mr Sanders

to your usual address - by that
same mail - I wonder so you have
never had it - I quite hoped that it
had merely been mislaid at the
London Post O. - by some official
carelessness - & so been too late for
its own Feb. mail - but that they
have of course just ~~made~~ ^{made} it too
late as they generally do in such
case & send it out by the next
months mail - I'm very sorry
because I of course told you all I
able to Maumie in it & other things - which
I dare not stay to try & rewrite now -
however I think it did not contain
my name so if the wrong person does
get they'll merely be a good deal
puzzled - & I trust have the honesty
to forward it to you to whom it was
properly addressed I believe - tho in
a tremendous hurry - I've never
managed to meet Mr Maumie since -
he was very kind & will come ^{that}
any -
You are quite right dearest not
to register your letters to me - I
think it is not absolutely necessary from
what I know here - & so feel with you

able the pity of encountering the gossip
which we bring in it needlessly - be-
sides if needed it ~~is~~ ^{is} a ~~use~~ ^{use} ~~to~~ ^{to} - & I
don't like you to have any one can rightly
avoid for me - especially just now -
I must tell you that we rec'd very
kind letters of congratulation from
Aunt Fanny, Mr. Harriet, Aunt Carry,
Aunt Lizzie, Mrs. Forbes, My Cousin Bessie
Senon - & my old friend - governess
in Ireland (Miss Moore, or Lattie as
we call her) & Miss Susan ie Mrs
Mucketto - poor George's sister & one
of my real friends - & her husband -
& poor her Aunt - Mrs Clarke (of that
lock) - & more most kind words on
the subject from dear old Mr. Wally -
But I send them all straight to Louie
this time - knowing of deep interest
they'll be to her (my sister) who knows
all much of all the wintors - & that
they will necessarily be of most shepher
interest to you darling unless one of us
were by to explain much irrelevant
matter they contain - & not why you
to have to waste so much on re-
posting such a heavy & comparatively
uninteresting packet to dear Louie -

I try well help too to tell her much
I dare not take the strength for this
mail — & I shall hope to show this
you all my self soon day by day
You will please dear tell Louie when I know
for she may tell the world is any of my
friend or hatred of our engagement — or
rather that you will tell her a particular
wish you dearest may have on this sub-
ject — as I know well that except as re-
gards them it of course she could not
know until you told her — we can quite
trust to her saying just as much & when &
to whom is really right & best — & what
we shd ourselves by to do if on the spot
I've told her I shd ask you — so she will
quite understand — indeed look for, yr
wishes on this subject what ever
they be — I dare not try to answer
any kind of yr dear letter which is not absolutely
necessary by this mail — much as I want to do
so — & I know you will like best say ab-
solutely for this pleasure to us both — since
I may not have it rightly — for the letter only
reached me Sunday morning i.e. 1st — then
is partly & my going to London it is all
to take up time & strength — & of this
letter, the much better than being of
last month, I've still home too much
& I do try hard daily to fulfill yr loving
earnest request all not

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to add to my letter, and Aunt Leppie. I
dare not try to explain to you now —
You will please dearest take out
this bit of paper which is round my letter
to him & contains only that 2nd Pth
all about telling our engagement yet
if you do not wish it to go —
I don't myself think it wd be attend-
ed to by him — & therefore shoudl't use
but send it on the chance of yr wish
I had asked it — still
Am I correct — directly to you at
Government House — I don't quite
believe so some how now you no
longer are really there — but continue it
till I hear from you are contrairied not likely
to run any risk — some friends (or friends)
that Government letters are taken better care
of — but please tell me —
I wonder so where the 10th of my
Feb 7th letter to you can be — for I
found it out soon after my large
letter to you was fastened up — but it
was then too near post time to dare
undo it all again — & so I posted it
separately in an ordinary sized envelope

who I don't think ever tries to draw people.
I am very glad you let your beard grow now.
I think men were meant to wear them -
don't you? if they must be great protec-
tions for the weather etc -

It makes me so happy to know of the
letters my dear Louie has written you - mine
for her are equally dear - tho she cd not
write 1/2 she wd that time, but so poorly -
I do so long for you to know each other
personally too -

The connexion of names is singular - but
I don't believe the author of that book or
his uncle are any way connected with
us -

No darling I trust my answer to yr dear
letter rec'd at Hawthornst will not have
disappointed you - my imperfect as it
doubtless was - I long for your answer
to it, too -

I do feel deeply interested about the book
you speak of & shall wish much to see it
when it is published - Much thanks
for your confidence my darling - I will
take care to keep it entirely to myself -
this makes me long more than ever
to know more of the writer -
Thanks darling for all your directions about
going to Rome - they are a great help - I think

I told you Dr. Knapik hoped to know of
some family going in course of June - I
hope so too as it wd be far pleasanter
than going alone tho' even there I shd not
be afraid of - or really mind very much -
Oh how I know he will try his best - &
I've one or two friends who have been
to Rome or Cologne and therefore can
tell me different little helping things -
I shall be very glad not to have to trou-
ble dear Anna or any one by an unnece-
ssary string of questions -
So you must feel quite comfortable
all me please dearly - & in case I've
not time to write of it all to her I know
you will tell dear Louie all can be so too -

Yes darling I quite understand you not
wishing writing to me of the new work & that
you are hard engaged - & shall not expect any
but short letters while you are so busy -
I only wonder how with all you had on
yr hands find time for natal mail. & all
together - that you managed to send
me such a dear long letter this time -
& much as I prize them - more indeed
than any words can well say - you know
well darling how far rather I'd have a
short one, if I feel you were saving your
precious health & strength, when busy -
I think you plan of sending a heavier ^{or more} packet

very good — don't laugh at & return
your wife's careful directions to ensure
their safe return to you if mislaid — but I do
it fully it with just save you a tiny
trouble the mail wh you answer this
letter — as having no date to them they will
do quite well again —

It is nice to hear what you say of Hermann
you see I venture to call them by their
names to you —

It is pleasant to hear also you say of the growing
liberal spirit at the Cape — at least I think
that is the plan you mean — the without
many it & all —

My own darling I so thank you for all
the precious words wh end your letter.
they make me feel glad & strong, & much
else too wh I can't well express on paper — more
thankful to you & the one who gave you to me
than I can say —

I have been feeling rather sad & sorry of late at
my heavy work & poor, so long & such like
things — so perhaps that makes your dear
brave letter even doubly precious to me.
It gives me so to be no stronger in
mind & body & thus kept quite unable
to do or learn any of all the things I wanted
to, in preparation for my new life with
you darling — I am so ignorant & weak
— may well to what I ought & might be —
I wanted not to let your wife be such —

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with too much — I sent more notes of
thanks & acknowledgments — in answer to near
5 or 6 the kind letters I've named to you
— here told all my correspondents now that
I must at least, save necessary notes
& foreign letters — so I do try to be good
dearly, you see — this I own thus soon
for much improvement still — but I do
by hand — for both our sakes —

I've not yet answered dear dear Mother's
last letter as I'm waiting till I've seen
Dr. Thrusfield to know how soon I may
go there I mean to Borneo — so that I may
take her some little decision — but I think
to write it on Friday, at latest —
I am so glad to know you were feeling pretty
well & stronger again my darling — I do indeed
trust you'll be more careful this the trying
winter —

Yes I shall like to see the Bishop — & am glad
to know his address —

I quite understand all your photographs
my darling — I trust you will not have it done
if too busy to do so conveniently — for tho
I long for it much — & you know I
have my own little sketch — the most
imperfect & merely a profile — of course it
was I who drew it — not dear Mrs Fisher

me much now, coming at it does on
the rather shaken nerves wh all last
winter's suspense left me — for I find
that all those 3 months

And besides all this it makes me doubt at times if I ever shall get really strong & well again - or rather if I have any chance of doing so before ^{my time} I hope to join you - for it is short now - only 4 months to sail, even if I leave by Oct steamer - & only 3 if its kept - And I cant bear to think of going to you a weak sickly wife - instead of the bright strong one both in nerves & mental & bodily power, wh I had so hoped & so long to be - were you perfect & strong my darling I should not care, at least not so much - because I know how far rather you dear love w^d take me as I am than be without me - but I cant bear the thought of being in any way an additional burden to one not strong - instead of the help & comfort wh I so hoped God would let me be to you - And somehow I dont seem to get better - no that is wrong for I am much better than in April & earlier May - but not well - I dont think its Dr Russells fault - for I still think him very clever - & I know he does me good - & all the good he can - but I dont think any body can do me very great or permanent good so long as there is anxiety to work against - for ever a little affects

responsibility which is so very trying & wear-
ing when one feels weak in body & mind - Do
you know what I mean? you cannot of course
experience because I suppose it is natural to
men to stand alone - at least to a much greater
degree than women - but I think you will thro'
your great understanding & sympathy - so be able
alone to have to weigh all the pros & cons not
only of the great question between you & Charles
& all they involve of duty to God & the future - &
also of duty to a dear sister, at least as far as the
time & manner of becoming yours are concerned.
I think perhaps it may be best to have to do unbiased
& alone before our Father - I do not know.
But even if best, it makes all the more requires
fortitude & alone doubly heavy for mind &
body. I mean for one who as yet is far from strong.
But added to all this there is the daily wear of
think when I have to accept the numerous kind
imitations of my dear friends & relations -
or rather now that time is short - I not strong
how many I must entirely forego - & how to do all
this without hurting their feelings - especially as some
of them do not know how I am situated -
Then there is the same difficulty about not writ-
ing to them - I do not feel for health's sake continue any
of my English correspondence as I used - & have
to prevent as much as possible this one and thus
understand this & the other but very pained -
I then measure the trouble about one's clothes -
you know we are not so well off as men in
that respect - who only need their dress coat
& there they are - I require you a slight idea!

idea of what I mean, I have still to dress
(taken out of doors) in morning - having ne-
ver felt equal to the trouble of getting a new
bonnet etc. spring - & therefore am still in
my black one which I had for the long court
morning for poor Prince Albert - so obliged
of course to wear my old suit - It is a great
trouble when one has a keen sense of what
dress ought to be & an utter distasteful
wearing things which are unnatural & unseemly
for you what ever they may be for others
& yet dress makes it all, only bent up
on fashion & with not two ideas in one's
a very difficult to get things done at all
to one's mind, when you have to be very
wise & careful as to money & therefore can-
risk getting things done as how & unseemly
like, & yet one too poor to feel up to see to
them oneself - And still are obliged
to get them - having of course which
one's friends & all that, to dress accord-
ing to what is considered a ladies costume -
This seems rather trivial in the recital
but is a reality nevertheless. I find a very
pious one, such as it is, to keep up
a constant feeling that there are things which
ought to be seen to - prevent one giving
oneself up to utter rest - which is what
I feel now is my one great need now -
Entire rest of body & mind - never to have
to think or write or act unless or beyond the
+ but I feel entirely fit for - And then there
one may please - (England) will feel very
home like to me - yet then

is not one who is home, one where I'd feel
a right to give trouble & be con- sidered
one of - or one person whom I can entirely
trust & lean on & also have a right to -
I don't know whether my puzzled words have
given you any idea of my position, darling
or how & exactly things I find it just now -
The conclusion it has brought me to (I wish
Dr Knappe endorses) is that I shall not get
well or even exactly better while it continues.
Therefore that it will be no use staying on & on
in England in hopes of doing so - & the sooner
I start for Africa after August has come the
better - what I at present hope I mean to
do is this - to go to Boston 10 days hence
& Dr Knappe quite approving & see all you love
there - & stay 2, 3, or 4 weeks, as you dear
mother may wish - Then come back to Lon-
don, (here Bloomfield Lane near White) where I
must be for 3 or 3 weeks in latter 1/2 July
to get my teeth made - & at the same time
take advantage of the opportunity & get what
things I want for myself & all the commissions
that I can do for my sister without recy^{ing} their letters
of answer all the while I can't recy^{re} probably
before end August mail - i.e. if I am well &
worse to execute them with injury - if not
I know how far better my id have me to have
all - besides it will be a duty - & at some
time I shall find out all about Cape early, re- p^{re-}
e Indian ones who are to touch there en
route - then if I'd time in early Aug^r & some

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have affected me more than I know
of - (I suppose I was going to see - but I was
obliged to leave of hurriedly & back -
yesterday (x) was taken up with my
to London & see Dr Knappe & at
after which I was too tired out to do any
head or spine of a writing - - - -
Even to day I am but little fit for writing,
still there are some things still which must
be said, & therefore I know that you my
darling won't blame me for endeavouring
to write them even at a little physical
expense, & you may be sure I shall try hard
to express all in as few words as possible -
I'd a long & very serious talk with Dr Knappe
about my health & the rights or wrongs of
going sooner or later to join you -
I told him how I've been feeling lately as if I can't
get really well - strong or even very much
better so long as I am con- sciously waiting all
alone here in England - I think I'd be rather
anxious, which of course is a somewhat heavy
one, as to how you & Louie are, & how all
things are with you both & the inner anxiety
about our poor father & dear Sam & Lucy - if I had
some one I'd entirely trust & lean on here in
England - as that would help me enough
to bear the anxieties as when shared they be-
come lighter - I also take away that constant
constant feeling of being on one's own respon-

as I do. what a rush it all is - I was
a long time weighing & thinking over all the
pros & cons yesterday before he would give
me leave - Of course he with his know-
ledge of life & sufferings - without the
knowledge of I here of you & darling, &
of various circumstances wh. if I have
not misunderstood your letter of Feb 3,
make you coming to you rather different
to an ordinary marriage - felt even more
strongly than any all the serious risks
of it - & the great responsibility of his de-
cision - I will tell you as nearly as
I can remember what he said -

That the only thing the matter with me is an
irritation (not sufficiently great to amount
to inflammation, but still an irritation
of the Spinal Chord - (with of course all
the weakness of back & brain wh. it or its causes
induce -) that it is chiefly affected by
mental causes, such as ^{mental} exertion, anxiety, pain
et al. but that it does exist there independ-
ently of these - it is the effect of long con-
tinued prolonged anxieties & emotions,
& also of over exertion physically -

That if he had me in his own power en-
tirely - he should keep me very much on the
sopas & order me to feed with light but
interesting intellectual diet - & that only
(food of course by understood) & that he

believed I should be quite well by the
end of two months - But of course
he added how as we have to do with facts
& not imaginary conditions, this was scarcely
possible as there are of course anxieties
& duties wh. must be met - still he said
much must be done by determination on
your part - towards realizing this state
as far as possible - I added (laughing) in
part of course that he should order me a course
of light reading such as novels et al - I know
what he means by this (I think) - that my
mind which it is difficult to wean for any thing
like deep reading or what requires much
thought - still ought to have something to occupy
it easily - I take it - away from dwelling
on either past trials or present anxieties
or all the duties wh. I want to do, but cannot
as yet get fit for - He also said what
a simple case mine was now & how come
hardly easy to cure - the only difficulty
in short seems to be in the almost
impossibility of my getting ^{into} favorable
circumstances for it - but he added
that did my health break down when
I was once married - it wd be a much
more complicated case & perhaps ex-
ceedingly difficult to cure - & that I should
probably get into my delicate health & ~~then~~
may be, confined chiefly to my work wh.

he added and he to one of a active mind a
very great trial —
he spoke of how the cure of a back is like
that of a broken leg — this it takes a
certain time for the formation of new
nervous tissue in the one case as it
does for the formation of new bone tissue
in the other — & that if ~~after~~ I went
out to join you too soon & have done so
there was a fresh drain upon it, (to use
his own words) meaning my spine, as repre-
sents the seat of our ^{central} ~~the~~ force — I sup-
pose —) that I should probably fall
into my delicate health — & have x cedly
difficultly — recovery from it — He did
not mean as thy dangerous, I know —
only the painful prolongation & per-
haps permanency of much the same
state of utter weakness ^{of mind & body} ~~of mind & body~~
wh I have now suffered from in more
or less degree for several years — even
since I by natural health & strength
broke down in short — with all its
attendant painful sleeplessness —
with any complication or increase of the
same wh the probability, wh I think
he specially referred to, on occasion —
I know darling you will understand
my saying all this to you in our next

were also strong enough for it I wd run down
to Cheshire for a week — as I feel I owe it to
my dear relatives there to see them once a
gain if possible — I also spend 2 nights
en route with Mrs Lloyd's poor mother & sister
at Stone — as I know I wd grieve them
deeply did I not wish to see them again
& they are so poor & so lonely that I can't bear
to neglect them (even apparently) in any
way as you can consent — then re-
turn here & to Coalston & finally reach & sail
to Naples want me to go — a truly repell-
thing, & I feel pretty sure of + perience of
Loving to Engd last time that he is right —
that the vibration of the steamer wd
be bad for me — both as causing greater &
more protracted sea sickness — & also
as being tiring by its perpetual noise & shak-
ing of back & nerves — I also that one had
no place in it you can comfortably lie
down in daytime in the Steamer — berth
very too hot & smoky — ladies saloon too shabby
for my mind on screw — & deck too crowded
even if one ^{of} lie down up there — wth a girl
alone wd be almost impossible — He says
if I wish I can go in a new large sailing ship
all — that we may round all the time of
voyage as gain in recpl of health — & I
that he hopes much for such a voyage
for me — Tho I wd be deeply feels

I once reach that (some point he knows
of - his own mind I suppose) & could
begin my life with you starting without
breaking down, i.e. my health or anything else doing
so in all the emotion or excitement of
meeting you & dear Louie again & at that
he should have no fears for me in the
future - but believes that then once
with you & happy, & all my miseries & great
anxieties over, I should go on prospering
like I was quite well -

My answer was, that I do not feel neatly,
so strong, or well as I hoped to be before
becoming your wife - or as I should feel
it a duty to be before doing so, if I saw
chance of really regaining my health by
a more protracted stay in England -
that I should both feel it my duty ^{to} and
cheerfully ~~remain~~ ^{remain}, not only till Oct^r,
but even on thro' the winter, in short
for any time he not see necessary for that
end (unless some higher duty such as you
very ill or needing me darling occurred),
& thus superseded the former one to
health (I called me back sooner) if
he thought, & had real reason to believe
that I should regain health by so doing!

for I do indeed realize the woe, & folly
& becoming your wife while weak & sickly
for your sake darling - indeed for both our
sakes & even if there is no other sake that
we need think of - tho of course Dr. Russell
in his own mind does & must - not know
if all our circumstances - or rather
if improper of them, which I believe to be a
true one -

But that I cannot think it likely I should
get much better if I stayed on here, for
the reasons wh I detailed to you in Feb
at the beginning of this subject—being how-
ever of course quite open to correction that
that this was merely a partly fancy or
part even as I at first thought it—for^{as}
I think I told you ^{very} that it is a feeling wh has
been growing in my mind for some time past.

But as regards taking the slip itself -
i.e. becoming your wife or darling -
that I do not fear. I do not fear that a creature like you
I am certain as I have done to you - but never gave him
I am so very one with you every now that
an idea of how it is - I am of the
I am no doubt, a real fears all that (the of
course some minor anxieties that
I may be the real - loving wife I ought to
wish, feeling how far from good & noble
I am in myself - tho I do hope for Gods

help & blessing in it all, & I can with
very entire comfort on the knowledge of
all your dear love & trust, & patient un-
derstanding of all my puzzled thoughts &
sorrow - I feel that joining ~~to~~ your darling
w^d be the going home - the coming to peace
& rest, real peace & real inward rest what
our outer trials be in home, ^{as} of power
ty or sickness, this I know, both of them
are no light trials - but I should not
fear any of them so long as you - I were
indeed one - I think I trust it is not pre-
sumptuous to feel that God has given
us the assurance of, in our oneness even
now - Of course I sh^d naturally be
in great anxiety & almost fright when
our voyage drew near its end, for it w^d
be so very long since I w^d have see^d him
of your darling or dear ones - I am sure
where we love much we also greatly dread
& I know I sh^d be quite sick with hope
& fear just at last till we arrived -
but then I trust my (as I hope) joyful
meeting with you & your darling & dear
Loved and more than cure that - &
we w^d be satisfied & shorten as much as
pos^s all trouble or arrangements,

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peculiar position - you being the only one
who can entirely understand about our future
or rightly guide me in it - so I make no
apology for what it w^d otherwise be strange
to speak of to you - & w^d of course did I not
feel how truly we are one in spirit & before
God, even now - it w^d be impossible for me
to do -
He asked me very earnestly whether I felt
equal to the step (i.e. marry) now, adding
that a great deal depended on my feel-
ing about it - & that my opinion fast how
far & how soon I sh^d recover on the voyage
& all that (in the time between this & early -)
I think he meant, & also as to whether I
did feel mentally equal to the very solemn
step of marriage is & to the entire change
of life w^d it to a degree involves (I trust
his meaning as far as I can recollect it, thro
mainly and in his own words which were
far more concise & better) w^d be
a great guide to him in his answer
because according to it - he w^d pretty
well calculate how soon he w^d let
me go, i.e. allow sufficient time
for my recovery, at least to comparative
health & strength - for he says so?

on port home did circumstances
make it most right to do - I know
doubt that I have your free leave for
this, or rather that it is your wish
too -
Then he gave me leave to settle & ex-
pect to sail in August - & prepare so
to do - & seemed to have my hope that
if I'm very careful in the mean time
I may be quite rightly ready, at least
it - then we pressed all go to Rome
at last & he, most kindly, gave me
an escort for me any his friend
& then I left -

I feel greatly comforted by his decision & etc.
as it does all the dearest believe feelings
of your mind on this subject - & I think
he felt quite sure upon the subject too
after his long tho't - tho' I can be very
anxious - I've never seen him look like
that way before - even when ^{usually} or on
with but puzzled as he has been at times
on my side -
I believe I've given you quite the idea
of our conversation, tho' not exactly
its ~~actual~~ agreement. Perhaps -
certainly not in its words - but
I know I can trust it all, having tried
best, entirely ^{my own} darling

to have. I think if day is this, as regards
^{my} ~~my~~ ^{to} mean / If your letter by the 2 new
mails do not arrange, or ask decisively
(be decisively as far as you dare are con-
vinced, for of course I know that that is all
you can decide at such a distance - viz,
(that I am to join you at such a time &
I might, can) for my coming to you earlier
than Oct - I shall then of course wait
till end of Aug - for the mail by W 1

No hope for your answer to this letter
has, however, to be arranged ^{ready} to start (if
still right, hopeful) directly if it is for
sailing to you so - But in case
that either of your former letters have
given me the power to come to you, then
don't write to me by that mail dar-
ling further than a few lines to say
how you are & all that; in case I've
been detained here - & so am still in England
when that mail arrives - for I don't know
that if I can, I shall not already have
sailed in mid-Aug - tho' perhaps the
extra relief of getting your dear letter
also all my letters from Bristol, &
that be even as great a good as start
earlier & to end, the women & and

lonely lonely life here - perhaps
has greater - I almost think ^{it will} do - & if
I do not too, shall settle this way, unless
of course some fortuitously good report
could be made in a day or 2 sooner - & thus made
it wrong to miss it -

Write you tell dear Louie for me & the
maid who brings you this (I take things
to her on / what you either have or
shall take me as to my coming - when
what you accordingly have reason to
think I shall do - because I am ^{very}
able left to write to her now - & of course
if I should only repeat the same
doubts, I fear to her (that is as far
as I can do to her) that I've already
told you - & according to that she
will of course direct her own
or any of our friends letters to me
at Cape Town enclosed to you - or
send them on to England - and
show that too she will write with
you, if she is still able to fulfill
her wish & you also like her doing
so, we have I do not doubt - all
the herself coming to Cape Town

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for our marriage - I don't doubt that
after 2 or 3 days quiet rest I shall be myself
again, & ready to say the solemn words which
make me yours for life - as our own hearts
& thoughts have already done for ever - at
least ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~ever~~ ^{ever} what we hope for, this does
know of -

(with) said as much of the sense of this
as was necessary, tho of course more shortly
and he thought for a long while & then asked
me how soon it was necessary to decide - I
said at once as I had to write of my change
of plans to his mother's post (today) - He
seemed to feel the time very short for such a
momentous decision - you will understand his
feeling it to be such, with his natural ideas as to
our future - & the long knowledge he had
of life & suffering - (he said how any after
he'd known the foundation of an after
life of weakness - suffering laid by marriage
a while sooner than was quite right & I
doubt) then he asked how far it must
be decided now - I said only thus far
that I wished to be able to tell you my
plans - as plans to be carried out of course
if possible - but to be equally altered

real duty we can well leave it -
all for the true best - even for her -
And for myself you know darling I come
to you - & to say that is enough; imply
as it does all the gentle love - care &
which I know make every thing in & to me
what peculiar position as easy - pleas-
ant as it could be rightly - & what ever
with try to either of us not accidentally
be anywhere until we were mar-
ried, we will be speedily, I know we
shall not mind, knowing that it was
nothing real - & look to the end -

One word more darling before I send
or rather two -
You must not please darling try too
much to make things nice & comfort-
able for me - I mean not more than
can be done with real ease & you in
every way - & I will give me more
than I could say did you in any way over-
-tire a inconvenient your dear self
by preparations for me - I don't
mind how simple the place will be
in darling - your presence will be its
sunshine, & however poor it was,
it will be kept neat & clean - & this

I don't despise comfort - by any means
but feel if does not depend entirely up
on what are generally considered its
material or even necessary accessories
& that happiness does not depend
on it - & that people are far happier
& even more physically comfortable
on bare floors & most scanty
furniture & at all, than in more
comfortable material surround-
ings that have purchased at too
dear a price - as the sacrifice
of precious time or strength
of otherwise needed - or even by
more money than could easily be
shared - I feel a duty that
your own little board must be
much entrenched on if not entirely
expended, in this long time since
your part appeared - &
therefore am the more anxious to
make feel even more than
easy about all this - tho I know
you will have trusted me to be our
too glad you had done nothing

of all you at home wished, beyond
what was easily and easily possible
to you — even without any words —
And another thing darling I thought you
with home already freely told me (or
rather in the letter of 21st of this month
which told me) quite as much as with
be useful to you out of my little 200
pounds I told you as to be given to me
for our marriage expenses — or even
of more should more be needed. I mean
you do and see the approbation we so
hope for. I am very glad that you have
told me your dear mind & wishes
about it all quite freely — because
you know all my money is quite
in my or rather in our power — &
I can take of it for my baggage back
or any thing else which is right —
I must hasten on as time flies —
& my letter to dear home clearer before
but I know you will tell her any
little things you have time for of
me — & that she is sure to hear
all essential ones for you —

14 BC 151 CB 19
in readiness to receive me & be with
me just then — till our marriage
day — I know you with quite
understand the worth of her who
I work also because of the delight
of being her — because I think the
change will do her real good & all
the joy of it & the removal of any
anxiety she may still perhaps feel
for me — the more I think it is great
joy for my happiness I know, & great
trust in the one who gives it to
me — & I am not least that you
& she may really know each other
at last — But all this I can write
more about in next week's letter
— very much pressed for time now —
I need not say darling that should she be
unable rightly to come, neither she
or you must mind all it for one
moment on my part — of course
I shall be deeply sorry on her part for
the postponement of all the joy
& good I hoped it would do my dear dear
home — but if that comes for any

Oh I think I've never said as I promised
how I've been this month ee
last — so not as it should be
now — but don't let it grieve
you dread this but mean to bright
as I will work to give —

Mail left 5th May — was very poor
for 1st week after it — I sat up
without pain (only to back, weak
ness, many weep of head painful
to it to support) I can think or read
or write — in short utterly done up
tho I'd done comparatively little that
month to what I want — so just
vegetated — 2nd week but little
better — 3rd week very much better
able to write & read a little again &
to bear the light & to sit up with
little or no pain — went then to And
Lizzy & kept belly better better / tho
thoing ever since till just before
mail came, when I missed all it &
then ^{deeply} ~~that~~ of its actual arrival at
beginning I was upset more & I am
but been very flourishing since —

but still am much better than
at last month time so hope
to escape any painful reaction
after its depart — I do take
great care now —

One more goodly in your
doubt — I feel my ground to
and yet so unsatisfactory
& hardly a report — but felt
it was best only to go & find
myself — I will try more
to understand my commercial
situation at last of the — the decision
that seemed forced upon both
our minds after it —

~~My dear Mr. Fisher~~

I find my name but on 2nd of
month as Mr. Fisher can
be enough for sure —

Last sheet of June letter
now sent to make it more
clear how far she may be
said to have improved, as
I hope she has.

BC 151 C8.19 15 5 June (Sat)
I've written a 3^d most kind letter for dear
Anna / it is also our Mother's answer
to yours, now that I can find the time
for going to town, in which she promises
our Brother's father that he will
meet me at Colchester - so he quite
easy for me & as to the young -
a very nice girl who is here / one of
the invalids / has been to Germany &
by the way, same route you recommended
& has told me all about it - so I shall
feel quite at home (comparatively)
even if I can find no one whose
frang & my joins - wth Dr. R. hopes
to do -
I do hope that in my heart I am
somewhat better / I ought to be able to sign -
but you'll be able to read this
great scrawl -
Goodbye my own own darling -
X after I write all my love to my darling -
Doesn't it seem like a dream -
delightful & heart change at the thought of it - the
11 Bloomfield Terrace 1862 -
Oh Mrs. Lister with safety receive from me
to me are left any letters that may arrive