

Egerton Park

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 1902

Dearest Mother Family,

If my first passage had held, I would now be on the ocean, & the Miss Galt who landed yesterday had a most calm & pleasant passage. I shall likely come in for a tussing.

Yesterday Silvia & I left here at 12.5 & arrived at Chester in half an hour. (If any you can get to Chester from this house as quickly as you can get to Lymington by Ferry then we went to the centre of the town in a train. & then down St John Street, & along Saceter's Lane to the Dee where we took a little steam launch, & sailed up the Dee to Eccles Ferry about 1½ hours there we were just at the gate of

Eaton Hall, the seat of the Duke  
of Devonshire, he is quite young  
& married last year Sheila West  
daughter of Sir Cornwallis West  
owner of Kilmartin Castle, that I  
told you of before. Silvie & I  
found a pretty spot & achieved  
a sketch. Miss Galt & party came  
up by a later boat & we all  
went up a long drive to the  
back entrance of Eaton Hall we  
passed through a lofty colonnade  
into a stable square with five  
doors opening all round & in the  
centre a magnificent bronze statue  
of a celebrated horse prancing  
up on his hind legs & a groom  
holding his head rein. From  
this we passed to another court  
& up to a fine door where a  
man & a turnstile guarded the  
entrance. A shilling from my  
pocket purse into the hand of the

Duke's treasure, secured my entrance  
just inside, was a long beautiful  
opening into grotto decorated with  
stalactites, & a few pots of fern  
some case had been robbed & the  
great pillars & pendants replaced  
in this room of the house, then we  
traversed long corridors with  
glass cupboards at intervals along  
the walls full of costly china,  
white vases, busts & pictures  
were also lining the passage way  
amongst other things two iron  
chest - curious coffers on ornamental  
stands which contained the  
jewels, papers, & other valuables  
which the bride brought to her  
new home - Dining-room -  
anti dining room - drawing, &  
anti drawing room library &  
Halls, we all gazed at the  
ceilings were amazingly beautiful  
some arched, some dome like.

all gilded & decorated, the  
library all in skin gold & a  
more regular pattern, the carpet  
of a similar tone with skin green,  
& each alcove with pictures &  
ivories, & Wedgwood plaques &  
brass vases of claironé: the room  
was decorated with green morie  
silk & about 20 panels of  
paintings of birds some very  
graceful, others rather obtuse.  
Another room had a frieze about  
6 ft deep representing the pilgrims  
going to Canterbury (Chaucer).  
There were tables with tops of  
amethyst, & jasper, & cereacia  
inlay work. Portraits by  
Millet: Gaius Marcius, Lely.  
Several historical pieces by  
Benjamin West, the boy who made  
his first painting with a brush  
made from hair from a cat's tail.  
& colours borrowed from the Indians.

our lovely portrait of Elizabeth  
Countess of Grosvenor, & Duchess of  
Sutherland, by Watts, in imita-  
tion of Romney. But I can't  
tell you half. But trees in front  
gardens of all sorts, Italian  
& otherwise also a fine ex-  
traordinary statue of Hugh Lupus  
Earl of Chester, the ancestor of  
the Grosvenor family & a powerful  
old ruffian who kidnaped &  
kept chained in prison for 12 years  
griffydd of Gwyn King of North Wales  
you can find the date in the  
Chester book. I have just looked  
into three other books & can't get  
it. The Estate is 860 acres, &  
has 6 entrances, & avenues miles  
long. Oh! for a receipt, you  
could trundle over to Hawarden  
in no time. Down through  
the grounds, past highland  
cattle, & herds of fallow deer

such pretty creatures watering  
England. Arrived at a tea  
house on the river bank, where  
had tea, & took the boat back  
to the town, which looked  
lovely in the grey misty lights  
with a charming sunset.  
The old bridge, repeated in  
the calm water & houses & spires  
in stately silhouette of greys &  
blues. Through the town we  
hastened, scrambled down to  
the station in a horse-tram  
just caught the 7.15 & reached  
at ourselves for supper at  
8 of -

Did I tell you about gany  
over the work house! A miracle  
of cleanliness & order. A nursery  
where 6 babies could be  
cradled & rocked in one long  
sweeping cot. The old tub  
& the same. A lady doctor in

charge, refined-looking nurses  
flitting about the infirmary, &  
the lady guardian - working  
surprising revolutions - Every  
one praises this strange new  
evolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
"the lady guardian":

The lovely weather has been  
succeeded by misty mornings -  
which clear with difficulty  
& today a grey & chilly air  
blows past - Autumn is quite  
evidently here - & alas! I had  
no letters today! I suppose  
you all thought I sh<sup>d</sup> have  
left - but I hope & pray all  
may go well with you - till  
we meet -

Love to all especially W.S.  
& send this on to Concord.  
A.L.H. -