

Dec 3rd 1883

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Acc. 1443

I hope Mr. H. has
written you a
few lines & wishes
to believe
the
with all this
Aunt

dearest Mother,

penny you & Raubins
have missed each other after all
his steamer being later than the
Parisian. I have not seen Gray
since his first visit - he was coming
down last week but accepted
an invitation to govern - house
instead. I was just as glad
as A. G. was to hear. I did not
see her but hear that she again
had a hard col which seems
a bad thing after so recently
getting over series of these.

As to showing your letters I
don't know but you can have
heard on that card that so alarmed
you for I am most particular
in not handing letters about but
only reading such selections as
are suitable to the hearer - the only
letter I gave a boy was a mere
note from Southampton of no con-
sequence whatever, or perhaps it
was from Liverpool, & I only
gave it - to save time in reading
in some hour - but I will have
done so had it contained anything
but the what which I was even then
such an unusual thing for me to
do I quite against my principles
which are rigid on that subject
I can only say that you all have

the uncomfortable thought in
regard to uttering to me -
for I assure you they are most
discreetly guided.

I have written to Rankin
this mail & not frequent-ly
to George to remind him of our
existence - Cary still looks well
she has hurt her storying with
her nose. We're thank paper
for his letter fear I cannot
write to him his time, there are
so many wants in the children
wardrobe, my lame finger having
prevented my jogging on in my
usual comfortable manner, when
I must recollect what-
of this week I've scarce of work
with energy but things a little
straightened here it was
I noted that of time season is
near at hand. I have already
a number of mas cards to send
which is festive no I
probably to address on that festival
so you will please if you had
skipped it altogether, I indeed it
would seem be the right thing
here without you we must hope
to have a royal gathering next
year if all be well.

My more is very fine in a
crimson, pleated dolman to her bell
fur-trimmed - is more gorgeous
than graceful, her figure is
not what it - was - she looks
far as well in March -
I no far give no sign of
any new intentions, but seems

very miserable when unwell. & I
have exhorted her just-to keep quite
quiet for the first-day or two it
w^d be such a pity for her to run
the least risk of health - she looks
well & bright, but is as great a
quase as Wm about-sleeping, she
must have been very tired out
by all her preparations, but now
that the bright-winter weather
has come I don't think she will
be so droasy - she is kept quite
fully occupied with her visits
meetings music etc & she & W. are
doing a little reading together of
a general character.

The children are quite
well again. Clara as funny as ever
she has such an imagination & can
answer ready on all occasions. I
found fault with her meddling
with something, when she sharply
replied "you must speak to her
I am tending I am the mad & I
you is the little girl" Baby goes
on with her walking adventures
& takes her mischances with
marvellous courage & composure
& Edith has taken up the family
line, & can cut-out quite well ^{being}
though she is quite a year behind
Eric in point of advancement.
I enclose a box with curls & buttons
which I don't think at all bad
of course she tries engines & trains
& does not do badly even at that
though naturally she does not com-
up to Eric in that department.

Will you give Mrs Craze that very
fine & ~~recounted~~ ~~little~~ ~~black~~ ~~cashmere~~
I have never heard its fate?

The trials of grandmothers were
forcibly illustrated to me a few
days ago, I went to call on Mrs
Wilkes, & after ringing twice I was
admitted to a room where Mrs W.
was frantically trying to pacify a
screaming scrap of humanity about
four months old. The mother (Mrs
Minnie Wilkes) had gone to town &
left young helpless in the care of its
step-grandmother. She begged to
know what I thought was the
matter, oh! was it the matter? Is
it ill? is it hungry? I thought
the matter chiefly was that the
child had been fussed & jiggled
into a nervous fit of crying, so I
pulled off my gloves & took the little
creature rather fearful that I had
no spell potent enough to appear but
however after a little soothing &
quiet handling she came to a more
quiet & behaving better, when I wet-
ted her cold toes & changed her &
in about 20 minutes left followed
by the blessings of the grateful
grandmother - I laugh every time
I think of the whole performance -
you can picture Mrs W.'s distress
her prim politeness overruled by her
real despair, yet struggling for its
usual ascendancy - This is a good soul
& it is her misfortune to have missed
the knowledge of babies, not her fault.

2.

I find some talk is on foot in-
imical to our ballad - feeling
fault with the American tongue
Mrs Harry Scott seems to be at the
bottom of it - we I we not have in-
jected - he certainly uses Yankee ex-
pressions & pronunciation, but -
nothing ungrammatical or incorrect
Adelaide C. has taken up cudgel
warmly in their defence. I was
calling at the Bishop's, where were
Bishop Bond - Bishop Williams
& his wife & Mrs Baldwin when
one of them began "So I hear you
a Yankee at the College?" "Yes in-
deed" I reply "O fortunate in having
such a man - so talented, as well
as the advantage of new elements
we don't want only the one kind of
people we are cosmopolitan." Then
mentioned his Japanese experience, Eng-
lish ancestry etc. but Bishop Bond
still objected "but he ought to speak
English?" Well I confess I said as to
English, of course we all know that
our Cant choirs have slipped away
a good deal from the old English
model - I believe the new Englanders
have preserved intact - many of the
best old English styles of expression &
time honoured words - Mrs Williams
who seemed a lively little woman
evidently enjoyed our little party
of carus - I plan I gave it - to them a
little to bravely but it - does not seem

to tell racial tariffs like that
venture to begin with, Perhaps it
would be remembered to paper
I said they missed him on the board
meetings in June. I only hope that
they will have to miss him for
some time longer. Every one asks
me whether you will blame the
false prophet - but I fancy that
trouble is now further south
than you are or all likely to go
is it not.

I am sure you need not
apologize about hastily written
letters for I reply you in kind
I rarely even glance over mine &
always write in odd minutes

Mrs Leach now has a clay &
sets in state supported by Col. & Dr. L.
Dr L. looks a little better I think
& is very regular in attending meetings
etc at the College. Mr Bony has been
diligently pushing himself as peacemaker
in a disagreement between young
Ferrier & Mr Darcy who the latter has
determined to bring before the Faculty
if we have been unkindward as
the class blamed Darcy & justified Ferrier
& Bony wisely make the matter
straight without a public dis-
cussion of its merits - ^{how time is up & indeed time}
is a most precious letter full of yours