

Kingsley
Tuesday Evening

My poor dear mamma,

What a dreadful time you must have been having really you seem to be fated to have all the hard times there are to be had for less money. I felt quite inclined to pack up & rush home instantly, when I got your letter, but as I could not do that there being no train here & Mr. Browne not being well enough to drive so far, I concluded to wait for further news you did not even tell me whether we had scarlet fever, or not! I suppose it could not have been that or you would not have let William go home to infection I suppose you were worried & tired for your letter was rather indefinite & left me a little uncertain as to what you meant to tell me I really think that you ought to flee to some country refuge like this I enjoy a little real quiet really this place is most delightful no outside disturbances of any kind, & all amusements, stately

within the family. You know I
did not mean to write you
any descriptions of life here,
but I feel as if I must write
a little, for I feel so dreadfully
far off from you all, especially
as you don't feel well. I am
glad that Papa has got back
safely, & trust that he has not
suffered, from toothache while
away. I am sorry that William
seemed so tired with his journey,
& really I think you must insist
on his going out for two hours
every day, for if he does not, I am
sure he will break down before
his wams. Mr Stevenson who was
here for a few days, said that
he always went out for two
hours exercise every day, & he is
reading for hours, & your idea
of W's taking a daily bath, would
I am persuaded be a great
help to him.

Since the gentlemen left, we
have been very quiet. I have
painted a little, & marked a
good deal, the embroidery is so
tiresome, but is getting done
by degrees. Our usual walk is to
the post office, which is a
mile up the road, I have only

we had two drives, one before Wil-
son left, which was like a fairy
dream, all through woods, which
to were made exquisite by a light
fall of snow, I don't think that
I ever saw anything more
beautiful. I believe the country
in winter is by the no means the
most desolate generally supposed there
is so much sky, the woods have
the most exquisite purple & dark
green tints & the sunsets & sun-
rises are beautiful, & though
essentially, wintery, I long to paint
them — I have just been inter-
rupted by an earthquake, we
were all sitting quietly ^{here} in the
drawing-room, when a rumbling
like that caused by a heavy
waggon began, & the windows
rattled, we all rose & looked at
each other in silence till it
ceased which was in about 12
seconds I should think a little
more perhaps, Jane who was upstairs
felt her bed shake distinctly, but
we experienced no vibration. no
doubt you have also felt the
shock, as 75 miles is nothing to an
earthquake, I imagine you felt
it after us as it seemed to come
from the south west.
Today we drove down to the

was "me" were Mrs. ...
she drove, I really thought we
should never get there. The road
in such a plight - the ...
making the horse ...
the hills as if he were at a ...
I was laughing to myself all
the way at Mrs. ...
platter myself that I looked
very sympathetic. I certainly did
not express impatience. The ...
little Barbara came up talking
to stay for a day or two before
going home to ...
heard at the ...

We are perhaps going to ...
more tomorrow. If the ...
all propitiously ...
till the day comes ...
like to go very much ...
the people whom I know ...
really quite a ...
began to count ...
had a nice long letter from ...
in which she ...
love to you. I ...
X-mas good wishes.

Now dearest ...
written you a post-card ...
morning I feel as if I had ...
this to a close, I need not ...
not to worry because I ...
would be adding ...
but I do hope that ...