

What made  
you tell J. about  
Mellie having writt  
to Alfred, don't  
say so much to  
her

Love love  
to your dear  
little self

Melbourne

July 8. 1870

My dear old pet,

I got your patchwork  
letter this morning which is the  
first I have received from you  
& as you mention something about  
a letter sent on Saturday, I thought  
it best to say that I have not got  
it, so that you would not think  
I had been so unkind as to neglect  
answering your first letter: especially  
as I have been longing to hear of you  
how you got along & if Hankie  
was sick & what your cottage was  
like. You see I am with Lilla  
& left Montreal on Wednesday  
& I have been as busy as could  
be since, in fact we have all  
had scarcely time to think or  
turn round, but it is beginning

to look something like now &  
we all expect to move in on  
Monday night Lilla & George  
will seeh there tonight. The  
collage itself is a lovely little  
place not too small & very cheery  
& light, it has a good many  
windows & those down stairs  
open like doors, there is a gallery  
in front covered with grape  
vines, & from Lilla's window  
you can step into a <sup>glass covered</sup> viney  
filled with large hot house  
grapes, there is another, at  
the foot of the garden about  
3 hundred feet long & entirely  
covered with glass & very  
nicely got up inside with  
tanks for water & hot air  
pipes, George has a man who  
takes care of all the place



+ the vineries + G. gives him  
a half the grapes of the large one  
for his wages, next year when  
we have more money he will  
keep a man himself, the college  
is on a hill & the view is  
beautiful across the river &  
county. We have got all the paper  
& white-washing finished &  
the carpets are all down, we  
did not get a man in at all  
but did all the work among  
ourselves, unpacking and all  
Kali + I papered the hall &  
Lella + I + Kali did the dining  
& drawing rooms, & they are finely  
done & George is such a good  
fellow at helping us to keep our  
little economies & yourself  
& don't say that we did it  
alone, I did not let Jessie  
know so sure you don't.

The drawing room carpet is beauty  
the prettiest carpet I ever <sup>my</sup> seen,  
almost nicer than yours &  
the room looks quite handsome.

The front of the house is filled  
with blush roses all down  
the hill, & they are just out  
so the place smells very sweet  
& looks charming, like the  
inhabitants you can't think  
how very well Lilla is looking.

George has had several patients  
✓ his surgery a large room  
with two windows on back  
case, & medicine closet. It looks  
very business-like & fine, we  
are going to paint the walls  
oak when the house is a  
little more got up, I am  
writing here now with a candle  
stick in a bottle to give me

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light; as we have not moved  
up yet we have not got coal  
oil, in order to give full particulars  
we have a shed & a parlour  
- house & George brought a  
cock & two hens from home &  
they are set-up quite fine.  
My room is very nice but we  
have put nothing in it yet  
but the bed, that is to be done  
on Monday.

And now dear I think  
I have told you all that is  
to be told about the house  
&c & as I am tired & have  
had lots to do I shall be  
obliged to make this letter  
shorter than I should like.  
I am glad you are getting  
to like gentlemen better & to  
be more amiable, my advice  
is dont talk to grand

& dont use words half a  
mile long as you sometimes  
do & especially dont talk as  
if you were delivering a sermon,  
you need not fear flirting,  
for I dont think you are  
apt to do that, never say what  
you would not like to be  
repeated, & you are all right.  
I have heard so many things you  
have said reported lately that  
I fear you are falling into the  
habit, from having had no  
one to talk to much but confidants  
such as I Alfred & Jessie.  
I now my son is done as a  
sign, I have given you my  
sey as you know I am older  
than you, & you know  
I love you very very much  
& think you a pet child,  
& am ever your own  
sister