

Before Marriage

1876

St Andrews

Jan. 1/76

Dearest-Bernard,

I very nearly began this letter on Saturday evening but just as I was about to get out my pen a knock at my door was followed by Mary's entrance & as she looked like a chat, I invited her to sit down, & we had quite a talk as we brushed our hair; she told me a great deal about Charlotte, I think it was quite a relief to her, because she tries to be cheerful with the others, & she cd say just-what she liked to me -

We went - to church yesterday, & heard Mr Perry preach, not-a-very charming

sermon, & I grieve to say
that your friend deacon
Mc Gregor disgraced himself
by giving expression to his
unawareness in a rousing
yawn, half yawn - half groan
which so amused me that
I had to laugh, your aunt
saw who was beside me
tried to look shocked, but
I believe she laughed herself.
In the evening only your
father, Marie, & Laura,
went out, & I read "Part
Royal" to the others, down
stairs - how I am pining
for a walk, as the sun
is shining & a lovely
strong wind blowing as
soon as all the busy fingers
around me give signs of
a pause, I must get some
of them to show me the
views - your mother is
just as neat & particular
as mine is - so many little
things she does, just in

the same way.

I don't think I ever saw
such a pretty house as this,
so different from a house
that owes its all to an
upholsterer. The only thing
that tries me about it is
that I have a great fear
that I shall never be able
to make any house I have
charge of half so pretty, &
then, & I then, - & then -

Here a sight ought to come
in, but I don't know how
to express me in writing.

This marble table makes my
hands feel like frog legs,
so as the morning's mail has
gone I will finish this
later.

Tuesday

After dinner yesterday,
Maria & I went far for a
walk, she called it a long
one, but I did not find
it so, we walked to a

pine grove where the
wind was making that
wonderful hushing sound
that reminds one of the
sea, & always makes me
think of the word forever
but it was too cold to
stop & listen - Maria
told me all about her
trouble, poor girl! It
made me feel unhappy
all day. It seems quite
wicked to be happy
when there is so much
trouble in the world.
When I meet people
with such sorrows, I
want to be miserable too
so that I can feel for, &
comfort them. But I
am sure you will say
"nonsense" at this point.

Last evening, a Mrs
Davis came in, & was
pleasant in a very quiet
way, she has a secret law

voice, which is you know
an excellent-thing in a
woman -

your mother & I had
quite an interview
this morning, & got deep
into all sorts of practi-
cal mysteries, quite
beyond your ex-ecutive
power. Mrs. Mobern
had a letter from her
husband yesterday, in
which he expressed
deep sympathy for you,
& said he wished to ask
you there, but felt that
you needed "cheerful
company" which he could not
be under the circum-
stances.

Every one is very good
to me, but I want to
go home, I have been
away quite long enough.

for my own wishes, I
certainly am having a
delightful rest, & hope to
go back blaoming, but
I wish I could go now, I
want to see you dear,
& writing does not seem
at all like talking. I
will have so many, many
things to say, & want to
hear you say quite as
many things, about what
you have been doing
all these long days. My
ideas of time are much
confused than ever, I
feel sure I have been
here three weeks at least.
With ever so much
love, dear -

Your own
Anne