



below, at every pore - the first night  
I saw Eric woke & complained of  
a drip on his bed so I had to take  
him into mine & spread a mat over  
tack over this bed, in the morning  
quite a pintful of water was left  
on the said rubber, besides the  
wet floor - today I have tried  
caulking the cracks with cotton  
wool, but I can't make them  
tight - still down comes the water  
I have collected basin upon  
basin full in the attic - two  
other leaks have appeared in the  
roof itself, but they wd not be  
much except in such perverse  
weather, I fancy the roof being  
painted wd stop them, but  
might - as well be at sea for the  
shushy & entirely appearance of  
things - The older children & boys  
have been very good during the  
wet days. I got a large box up  
stairs for a doll's house, but had  
to put up supports & divisions  
myself as Eric had reduced him-  
self to tears of despair over his own  
attempts, I fear I am becoming  
an accomplished carpenter, had  
to mend the baby carriage a few  
days since, wh. was not easy  
also to put hinges & lock on the  
biscuit-box, to keep Miss Ruth  
from meddling - I don't fancy  
wood-work however, I am not

ambitious to claim woman's rights  
in that direction, at any rate -  
Eric is improving, much more inter-  
esting & obliging, I am reading Vol 1  
of a grand history with him it  
is a capital book, & most inter-  
esting - I have also embarked  
on the wide wide world & find  
that even that delights in it,  
it is rather macabre, but has  
a good deal of useful moral, &  
certainly has carried us through  
much of the tedium of these  
wet days - as for poor Ruth's  
bowl in a china shop we best  
describe her vigorous personality  
skirt-up in this wee cottage!  
I keep her as much as possible  
in the nursery but she bursts  
out at any chance like a bomb.  
Poor little soul, I feel for her  
many rebuffs - but really twins  
wd be less trouble than Ruth  
& boyie, she spills his food -  
pinches his feet & jumps off tables  
all in 5 minutes, I wish no  
evil intent, she rushed into the  
dining-room yesterday, & when  
she saw Annie coming said  
"Better not come in here Annie &  
is dangerous for you" & she kept  
repeating dangerous for you as  
I left with her happy thought  
the long sword - Her fingers  
bubble over with water & the

garden looks better than I have  
ever seen it before. & my stock  
permitting progresses, so the result is  
not wholly evil - I noticed tonight  
on bread they actually brought  
us the first strawberries, with  
which we celebrated Dominion day.  
When you are in Germany I  
hope you will inquire particularly  
about the price of living, education  
etc. I have a great idea to go over  
by & by for part of the children's  
education, & if living & learning  
are as cheap as reported it - w  
not be impossible - Will you be  
in Dresden, I think the Fruttenhans  
are there still - I wrote to Mrs  
Coulson giving her the news of  
your first week in England &  
I had a very kind note in reply  
in which she says to tell you not to  
write to her for she knows it is a  
hoax, & she wd prefer your enjoying  
yourself untroubled by such cares  
she says she will depend on me for  
news.

Laure tells me that Mary  
Van C. is engaged to be married &  
they have learned the great baby  
& are spoon-feeding it, both which  
things give the least possible  
chance of life I fear the hot-weather  
& teething all before her. I get  
swim-bath catalogues & printed  
reminders of this that & the other

for you, but so far nothing  
worth troubling you about -  
I have answered those requiring  
answer, & put the others by for  
you - Tonight came a letter  
from a John Allen wanting a  
place as Chemist, or w<sup>d</sup> services,  
himself fit for teaching certain  
branches of mathematics up to  
the calculus, the note seemed to  
come from a very young man  
he is leaving Washington now -  
seem as their funds are short  
I suppose he is the rough diamond  
you saw here with his father  
& I fancied it just possible  
you might think of him as an  
assistant - perhaps I had better  
forward his letter

I am so glad that Nina  
wrote to you I am longing to hear  
all about her & particularly  
about her husband & what you  
think of him - Did I tell you that  
poor old Mr Boyce paid me a  
visit & actually wept about Nina  
& the breach Mr White had made  
between her & her old home - I hope  
you have been able to remind  
her of the old home & old affections  
it is cruel even to seem to forget  
or neglect them -

Miss Leann & her old father  
came down last night & are  
the sole inhabitants at Acton  
I have not seen them yet -

By the way I have found a  
peculiar thing that if you de-  
cise to bring me a "plucking" wo-  
be except - I seem to have lost  
my guard ring in the confusion  
of plucking, it is rather tight in  
any case & I had just it on my  
left finger, I certainly it is not  
here. - I may find it at home but  
it is too small & I live in fear of  
losing my wedding ring - Do you  
know the size to have a ring to  
fit - you - any plain guard, not  
easily spoiled by daily use  
Walter & Eva talk of coming  
down the end of this week or the  
beginning of next, Hoveys & Fleets  
about the same time

Friday July 3<sup>d</sup>

We have not seen the sea since  
Sunday, but yesterday the weather  
began to be, so to speak, convalescent  
& today it continues to improve  
no rain having fallen but fog &  
cloud & wind hovering about ever  
willing to depart & since seen down  
the sky has been again visible so  
tomorrow no doubt - will be fine

The young ones & I went for a long  
walk yesterday first to the fall  
wh. was grand so full of water  
then along the shore nearly to Harry's  
home by the road, fog was all  
raised then - after so long in the  
house they were delighted with  
everything - Edith particularly in great  
old & as graceful & sweet as the child

ed he, tho' is really very good I think  
toward his years. By the bye I discovered  
the bed-side Washington in London  
he struggles so hard for freedom  
& independence, he can creep about  
now quite easily, & tries his best to  
get up on his feet & can do it  
with a very little help - of course  
I don't intend to encourage him in  
that. Though, he is remarkably  
strong in his arms as well as legs.  
I rarely hurts himself - & still more  
rarely cries, if he does he has turned  
not braced but a lovely pink  
colour & his hair has grown a great  
deal, & is just, not golden, & his usual  
ready smile is charming. If you  
we not insist upon awaking  
at 5. a. m. to see how the day  
promises, I we consider him perfect

I took my sketch bag out for  
a walk a few days ago, but brought  
it home without having opened  
it. I we much have liked to  
finish my repairs for the cupboard  
doors, but unfortunately had  
forgotten my new paints, & had  
none in my bag - There are a good  
many things I wish I had with  
me, but I am not surprised to  
forget them, I was so pressed  
with many things before leaving  
Paris, even the boxes, Fleets & J. J.  
headpaths are coming down Tuesday  
I believe -

I shall write you letter all  
on education by & by for your remarks  
I fear that the difficulties of carrying

for the children will be greater  
rather than less as they get older  
I plainly see that even this year  
there is a restless desire to be free &  
go off anywhere & everywhere, and  
both Edith & Eric - I have to plan  
amusement & variety for the after  
noons "the beach" is no longer a  
panacea for all desires

It is however a great comfort  
to find I can get the hour to teach  
them having a punctual & early  
breakfast really makes all my  
home duties much easier - I do  
not think I have exaggerated the  
importance of it - to me. & I fear  
that however unwillingly I shall  
<sup>and for variety</sup> have to take an "official breakfast"  
as Mr. Baynes called it - I lean  
now to sleep out - your unawareness  
undisturbed by such frequent  
reminders that hunger is destroying  
my amiability.

I sent letters & notices to  
Mrs. Ramsey today also to Mother  
tomorrow I must send to Miss Emma  
Eric has had half of the potatoes  
& we all took a turn at the  
mash with no great result, I had  
the woman here for half a day  
weeding but again the "Purley"  
has got ahead.

All sent love we had seen  
a nice letter from Haukine Jr. Don  
jelling - I must wind Eric up to  
answer

All love dear, I can't sleep  
to write more affectionately as ever  
Anna