

Little Melis

July 31st / 55

My dear Love,

I am so sorry to learn by your letters, that you have been so long without news of us it has not been my fault. Unlucky I have omitted the "Kiviana hi" on some letters wh- may have caused the delay of a day or two. It is very annoying not to get letters for when travelling it makes the time seem longer than usual & the blank greater. I hope you will get safely the tin-plate of "the boys" that we sent as a small token for your birthday. I now enclose a painting Edith did not get done in time. I drew it but that was all. Also one of Clara's wonderful pictures. They all come with the most loving & warmest wishes I can assure you. The dear little people are continually talking of you. I even wish to have Georgi if any expectations of the glory of your return.

Abelaide Campbell has been drawn this week. & consequently there have been various gifts. Yesterday I went over to get military medals the party from Berkushevo & some others in a regiment that

weather was perfect, calm warm &
placid, with great hills of white cum-
ulus clouds making endless reflec-
tions & shadows in the water, I made
a sketch there while the others wander-
ed about, & after I had begun I
noticed an intestinal, a very un-
pleasant-smell as of dead fish,
but as it only came occasionally
& I was busy I did not heed it
whether it was that or no, I never
felt sick ever since - however I
hope it will wear off as tomorrow
the talk of an expedition to the
lakes - I will have to take Sophie
& wish all the others to go, but I
fear a buckboard wd bear can
hold them - Edith went with
her but misery & I told her she wd
have to stay at home the next morn-
ing so if we can't get her in the
kith will have to stay - poor little
one I hate to leave her, but my
inability to manage a horse & the
size of the family make a difficulty
Wafa took all the young ones
out in the boat this afternoon
wh. was very amiable of him
he is always so kind that as usual
is sacrificingly to his fetish work he
has laid out for himself an
amount of writing for the summer
wh. makes him greedy every
morning he is taken from it - I speak
from nervous & irritable it is such
a sorrow & pity - for himself & all
around - Mother suggested the
brilliant idea that I shd go over
to England with him next year
that wd be a "go" wd it not?
I had a letter from Laura yesterday
she seems to be well & also your
father but she says there is no chance

of either, or both covering eleven
months & she repeats her earnest desire
that we should visit them in fall
with the promise that it did not
be the last week in Sept as there
is to be a temperance convention
then at St. A. S. - I fancy it will
suit me best to briefly pause
a day in town & go on. I do not
want to be put off to October
for if I stay in town at all I
must look for a new housemaid
& cook for though the present
ones have been most pleasant in
every way. I do not think this is
strong enough for the washing &
all at home unless she had a
very devoted one who is not likely
and a new housemaid & even if I
readily filled these places I did
not like to leave the house to
with perfect strangers - I suppose
you could not stay at St. A. S. more
than a Sunday at beginning or end
of our visit - Of course all depends
upon you - & whether you can
run down here from Dulac to
bring us home or no. Another thing
is that I do not see any way
for Eric but school - though I
hesitate to cast the die by sending
to Miss G. - I would prefer a first
rate governess. I do not must have
one before long for I can imagine
few things that would induce me to
let the little girls go to school till
12 or so & become like the first
rough girls I see as the product
of our schools. But for this
winter I think I can compass
what teaching they want (they do to
get a quiet hour is like fighting
with the wild beasts at Epsom)
& if Bessie might grow up without
an immense sleep & I might

do share another winter. The two
younger brothers & I go to Lyells
school. wh. I do not incline greatly
to & I believe it is to be in some
way united to Mr Williams' new.

I hear your accounts of the
High School as regards little boys
the hours are mathematical in any case.

The last few days Eric has been
perfective - so pleasant & obliging
he takes great pleasure in the
society of the Kelpaths, who seem to
enjoy him exactly - we have had
Clifford to tea several times, & he goes
there often also.

For we had strawberries
for tea tonight - I remember
telling you, that we had celebrated
Dominion day by having the first
dish of them.

I have supplied my lack of a
ring so you need not get me one,
I have purchased a beautiful
Indian one of brass hair, & with the
inscription "Forget me not" so I feel my
wedding ring quite secure now, as
I did not before.

My hobby-hobbles about me
though I don't think he can judge
to do so so soon - I wish you had
seen how absorbed in their beliefs
Mrs Hub & Emily Honey, they are taken
as Jerry as I am.

We will have so much to say when
we meet. Dear little Ruth was with
me yesterday picking strawberries when
I became separated from her by some
tree, she finding herself almost dead in a
lamentable voice "Oh Mother, you've
lost me" "Yes we lost me" it sounded
so funny - Happy now dear & not feeling
well so I must away to look up & go
but - all blessings be with you.

Yours
Anne