

Birkenshato,

Little Metis.

Tuesday July 23^d—

95

Dearest George

From king to pauper it
 seems now universally accepted that
 man needs relaxation & variety & I hope
 that you are not to be the only exception
 & now the very Parliament has ended, wh.
 I understand has released you fr certain
 obligations, I hope to hear that you too are
 on the move — yet I will not urge you
 to come here at any particular time, although we
 are really to give you a hearty welcome.
 But rather I wish ~~that~~ you to go when you
 think best & come to us when you can stay

~~longest~~ - It is a tedious journey. We
 go on here much in the old way. I shift
 & drift influenced by weather & floating barks.
 Our factotum - Mr. Suckey - is now employed
 by meep an - & has little time to spare to
 keep our place trim. Papa & I gather occasion-
 ally - he as a relaxation & as my chief work, &
 if much is not accomplished & disease it gives
 health & some small satisfaction to ourselves.
 We have had abundance of strawberries - first
 the wild ones now excellent cultivated berries.
 & blue berries will be ripe here these days.

Courass has markedly improved in
 strength since coming here, but in evening
 he is shorthaired & a small rise in temperature
 at night show the continued need of warmth
 mes all at his actions & this Anna dwells herself
 to doing. Laisto has had a return of appendicitis

but is recovering. This has not been
 spoken of among the neighbours. It seems
 better not to tell of all the ailments that
 occur. I dare say you have heard that the
 Harringtons are adding two rooms to their
 Cottage. They are now in possession of them
 although the outside improvements are not
 yet finished. Florence, I fear, is not taking
 the restful time she seemed to us to require.
 She has three visitors, charming & pleasant persons
 each willing to do something to make things
 move with ease, but the oversight, care of the
 children & ceaseless talking wears more than
 she is aware. Were it not her own wish to
 surround herself with visitors I am sure she
 would have reason to complain. No thing I ought
 to say, that is, that Mary J. is very good to & helpful

with the boys. who are well & apparently happy. It has had several letters fr. Will. He thinks all his appliances are improved this year & the work progressing favourably. Our Will. now have returned to the Dupkes much to the disappointment of the little girls. Silvia being quite awake to the pleasures & advantages of Salt-Haus & unwilling to return. The duckey has given great pleasure.

Rankine sent me a remarkable book on the thoughts & characters of the Japanese called "Out of the East". by Hearn. It appears an attempt ^{to produce} in literature those who the Japanese excel in in decorative Art absence of symmetry of harmony in variety. He skips fr. vague dreams to tabulated facts, fr. philosophy to a mere generalization of Eastern story. I have been strongly interested yet far fr. agreeing with the Aesthetes in his admiration of Eastern religions. You may like to read this book while here. R. wrote last fr. Amsterdam. Still enjoying luxurious idleness he says. With all due love to you. I am as always your affectionate.

Mother