

Birkenshaw,

Little Metis. June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1899

My dear George

We have today been here two weeks & I have not once written to you! Let me, however, remind you that I have only the brief morning hours for any duties there due to me as mistress or mother, as in the afternoons I am nurse. Since we arrived we have passed through the greatest variety of weather & temperatures than we <sup>at</sup> the experience. We have had one severe thunderstorm while my hat & umbrella it rained, another while it was east

rain & cold & it afterwards became  
 much colder. We are now passing into  
 something more moderate. Water has  
 displaced the cold, & it has really been a  
 week in Italy to keep up the fire & to  
 surround him with hot bottles in  
 bed &c. Still there has been no day in  
 which he has been unable to go on the  
 gallery for a short time & most days for  
 the greater part of the day. He looks well  
 eats heartily & I think has less indigestion  
 & certainly enjoys more society than in  
 any cramped rooms in Mantua.  
 So I hope & believe there is no reason  
 for regret because of our coming early.  
 Will arrive here on the 13<sup>th</sup> longing to be  
 ahead of & get the Cotteridge - aired & ready for  
 Florence. I was rather sorry that he

that he life de Hyathe so soon as he  
 has distinctly benefited by it. He gained  
 5.6 in weight. Here he sleeps & takes break  
 fast with us & the rest of each day  
 he spends at Breakfast. He rides  
 in the forenoon & humbly tries to avoid  
 worry as a surfeit, but I fear even  
 this partial home-life will not prove to  
 be the best use to make of his parlour.  
 Yet where to go is most difficult to choose  
 the not be very grateful for suggestions should  
 any like have come to you. He will stay  
 here till Victor comes down at beginning  
 of July. & probably take him as Companion.  
 Thank you sincerely for your kindness in taking  
 Victor for such a pleasant half holiday. I rejoice  
 for your sake as well as his. Bernard,  
 Courneil & Ruth arrived yesterday morning  
 in heavy rain & bitter cold but they are

now the nurse. Day by day one or two  
 of the Cottagers come & soon the whole away  
 have a small share of the place <sup>himself</sup> ~~there~~ <sup>deemed</sup>  
 wholly ours - however our little spot  
 will be in good shape as I have got  
 it nearly tidied up.

My thoughts often turn to what I can get  
 as a present for Blanche Atkin, who probably  
 will be married in Sept. Chernish's Encyclopædia  
 Britannica has accrued to her £10. is a large  
 sum. A picture wd be acceptable. Some re-  
 commendations are g. . . . I can't recollect his name  
 he is, or was, Pres: of the Ass: of Artists - a decent  
 man. He paints in water colours only. but  
 the choice wd have to be made by a substitute  
 & there is no one I cd trust except yourself, or  
 Mr. Leyce, & if I cd not see it, I shd always feel  
 (if Mr. J. Chase) unsatisfied - but it was an  
 unwise choice. & unacceptable. Perhaps

Birkenshaw,

Little Metis.

It is foolish on my part to mention this as it may disturb you & writing in this way may give you not act. Parents to a child are so troublesome, they really worry one! I would like to send Blanche a novel & nice one.

Clara wrote only a note by last mail promising to explain why I write more fully the following week. She was staying with Mrs David Kemp & said that notwithstanding a Contretemps that occurred with the baby's nurse while she was staying <sup>with</sup> Caroline that she had had a most delightful time with them, having found them truly

kind & hospitable. I b she thinks  
 very charming.

We shall be very glad to hear  
 from you one of these days. We have  
 been found it possible to spare  
 a week or two <sup>time</sup> to run down here  
 to treat some of our A. I. sea  
 air. The new Introlanice cars are  
 now running & are said to be luxurious.

With loving good wishes

As always yours

Affectionate

Mother