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This Essay Society has once a year a ~~the~~ meeting devoted entirely to the study of some one subject, - usually literary, such as "Spencer & his works"; but for the most part the Essays are quite miscellaneous. The Society meets once a month. Everyone must contribute either an essay or a drawing once a year.

~~At the~~ During the evening a lady whom neither of us had ever seen before came & spoke to Lucy & me; she seemed to know all about both of us. ~~It~~ I don't know her name but she is a cousin of Mr. Ellis, & had seen Father & Mother at Mr. Edmondson's. There was no one else I knew there.

Lucy Morland says that the family of Mr. Whitwell Wilson have just settled at Croydon. It is odd how one gets news here. A girl from Birmingham has told me that Mr. Schnasthorpe is going to New Zealand for his health.

I don't know if I told you that there are now six girls in the Boarding house who wear the Blue Ribbon, two having been encouraged to wear it by seeing the rest of us. I haven't seen any day girls who wear it, but one who is a great deal in my classes, - Miss Cowell

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has spoken to me about mine, & we were having quite a nice little discussion when we were interrupted.

Miss Ashdown & two of the girls have wine for dinner, so there is room for improvement.

I see a good many people in the streets with the Blue Ribbon, but not so many as in Sheffield. At chapel they appear in profusion. Do tell me whether the mission is still going on in Sheffield, & how long it is likely to last.

That reminds me of another thing I want to ~~ask~~ ask, - namely why there is an election in Edinburgh. I saw in the Times that there was one, but it didn't appear who had died or resigned or been promoted. We can see the Times here if we want, but it is rather formidable to crackle it & turn it inside out when all the girls are present, & I am about the only one who cares to read it.

I see that Cecil in his letter thanks you for the "Look Out." I would do the same if I had a chance. (That's a hint).

I shall never know the news, if I don't have that or something like it. The Times is

too lengthy, & besides I can't always get it. One doesn't get clear ideas of news from Punch or the Graphic, which are the only Weeklies taken.

I am very sorry I never acknowledged the money, but I got it all right.

Thanks also for the other things you sent, some of which I return. I will send the others when I have done with them. The shoes fit beautifully.

I got a letter from Aunt Rebekah asking when she could come & see me. She named several days, but the first one that will do is Nov. 2nd., so I hope I shall see her then.

It is rather a sell that we have Biology practice last thing on Monday for Mr. Stewart always keeps us over 2 hrs, so that we miss both the visiting time & the Debating-Society, which meets once in three weeks on Monday afternoon. But I mean to get to it, somehow.

Now with best love to all especially the Kiddla to whom I also wish many happy returns, I am

Your very affectionate
Helen M. Wilson

P. S. I quite forgot, - one of Mr. Bennett's
boarders asked me if ~~my~~ my brother
was at Dalton Hall. She was Mr Smith-
son's cousin, & was staying with him
when Cecil wrote. She asked me if
Cecil liked it, & when I said I thought
on the whole he did, it seemed to me
that there was a little surprise in her "Oh."
but it may have been only fancy.

Poor Cecil seems having a rather a
bad time with his "Gottes".