

28 Rutland Square

May 15<sup>th</sup> 1868

AL/3296

My darling

Your stay has indeed been tragical. I seldom should think had a family been assembled to watch the last hours of one parent been called to mourn the sudden death of another. You must be much stunned. Your letter forwarded by Mr Black is intensely interesting. Your thoughts and emotions with regard to your mother's death are altogether new to me. I have no experiences of my own by which I can interpret them

How strange the house must  
be - she gone and you with  
that dear calm leaning head  
old man

"Only waiting  
Only waiting till the shadows  
are a little longer grown"

I enter into all you say of  
the effect of these circumstances  
on yourself & desert. May you  
know that deep unbroken calm  
which only comes of a subject  
well. There is much darkness  
over your future, but light  
will most surely arise

I am so glad you can find  
interest in your French etc  
occupation which really draws  
upon the mental powers I  
have found to be the one  
thing where with I could keep

My spirit alive in circumstances  
of protracted anxiety and  
now. I hope you will go on  
with your reading too. I can't  
imagine how you look in  
deep mourning - I always as  
sociate you with deep tropic  
col coloring. I do not yet  
know the particulars of your  
mother's death whether she  
was found passed away  
or whether any one was with  
her? Tell me also if any one  
sleeps in your garden down  
at night and if you and  
Jillie are now alone with  
your duties of waiting and  
nursing. Tell me how you  
feel what you do, & every thing  
of the doctor and others are  
kind. It was a mercy that  
you got such a thorough  
exercise to prepare your mind

and means for this. I sorely  
like to write of myself yet you  
will like to know that I am  
well. I walked to Choball  
St on Saturday afternoon and  
arrived at Duddingston in  
the evening. I have not yet  
been able to see anyone. My  
head gets so soon tired. Did I  
have the last photo. of you? I  
could find it yet I think you  
sent it one from Glasgow and  
have missed it. Please send  
an uncoloured one of the  
same and I will send stamp  
for both. Annie writes with  
me in much love and sym-  
pathy and believes me  
Your loving friend  
Isabella Bird

27. Miss Bishop afterwards Mrs  
Bird Traveller Missionary