

Malvern. July 2nd /81. 5588

My dear Husband

I have just received yours of June 15th. The one of the week before, which you say you sent by Mrs Know, with her Paris cards has never arrived, nor have I heard whether Mr Know himself has arrived. Mrs Kennell did not receive her Indian letter last week, and I saw in the paper that the Assurance with the Bombay mails of June 8th had been detained & broken down machinery. But then again I heard that the mail had been delivered in London, so what to make of it I do not know. Ours & your letter never reached, and I do not like to write and trouble Mrs Know. It will be too cruel if he is detained a week out of his short leave. Is there any need for

me to do anything about that last
diff money. It is all right as it is
now, I should think, and is better
left to accumulate until wanted.
It is a good investment. He ought
to have some dividends to lay aside
this half year. All the railways are
looking up and paying better.

I quite think with you that Noel
should go to a boys' school as soon
as convenient, but his health
is the first thing, and for a year
I would keep him as he is now.

If there were a good school for
little boys quite near, I would
send him at once, but there
is not one, and I would not
on any account send him to
Mr Wilson, where there is a mixed
class of boys, mostly big ones.

He is a quite little fellow, and will
do well enough, when his body is
strong enough for the mind to
be steadily set to work. He takes
cold very easily. To keep his lungs
right, is the great matter now. I
would let all lead learning rest
until that is right. Miss White
teaches him very well at present.
Filian and Isabel get on well
with Mr Noel's spelling is remark-
able. It is more carefulness than
ignorance, for when I ask him, he
knows the right way.

After bitter cold, we are having
muzzal warmth, and you may
imagine it is very trying. I was
quite out of sorts last Sunday, and
so was mamma, and on Monday
I was unable to go to the first

meeting of the Shakespeare Society,
for which I was very sorry. The
next meeting, on the last day of
this month will be held at Mrs
Gregory Smith's house. I hope to be
able to go there. Last Monday
it was at the College. Mr C. said
it went off very successfully. The
play was "Les Femmes de Paris." He read
the part of Calista. Two of Mrs
Smith's uncles belong to it, one
a Mr Barrister and his sister.
I have finished half a volume of
my story, the prep copy, and am
enjoying it very much. I think
you will like it too. I have had
another break in it, owing to the
children not being able to go to
school regularly. Miss White
has lost her mother.

Remember me to Lady Stuart. I
 am sorry to hear of her being so laid
 up. Poor Mr Behr! I remember his
 name very well. I suppose he
 would succeed Mr Jay at Lanes.
 How much we love to be thankful
 for, and yet one seems to hold one's
 mercies with such a trembling
 hand. Such a little thing might
 change it all. I am so thankful
 for Mamma's recovery, though at
 the same time she will never be
 quite so strong as she was before this
 illness. It has strengthened the bond
 between us, if that could be.

I don't think you will let our
 garden any worse for the change.
 It is a great comfort to have it all
 to ourselves, and with the slightly
 diminished space and £50p rent
 I can manage that. Most of it is
 to be laid down in grass.

I mean to spend a great deal of time
out of doors this year, if all is well,
doing little matters in the garden.
The children are going to have a
vegetable garden each, and I
shall give them a prize for the
best lettuce, radishes &c. Noel is
very busy now over his biography.
You would be very much amused
with it. I shall take care of it for
him. He is dividing it into chap-
ters and parts, like a regular
vornor up book. They all continue
to write every day in their little
pocket books, which is an
invaluable habit for them.
Noel reads a little in his Bible
every morning. It would do you
heart good to see how he sticks to
it. There is plenty of character
in them all. Ellen and Keaton

are very much stronger now than
they used to be. Keaton has now a
good, regular appetite, and never
wants to be excused from eating.
They never take colds either. Poor
Noel gets the share of all these in
that matter. He is taking cod
liver oil now. I have not heard
from Aletta lately. I have
written to her twice. As for Præst-
le is entirely silent, spite of the
children's little messengers of love.
Good bye. Take care of yourself.
I do hope you will get through
the warm weather, which will
as soon be coming upon you now.
Very much love from us all,
mine especially. Ever your loving
mother.

Thursday. Just received your letter
from Mr Knorr who must have
been detained as well. What a sad
thing for him. I will write to Mrs
Smith and Sir Anthony. No time
for more as I must send this
at once.

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27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.4

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Letter to J. chiefly 1880

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