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Le Hollies. Oct. 15th / 84.

My dear Husband,

Your letter came last night; very welcome it was, for we had almost given it up. Another fall from the happy! Oh, my dear man, take care, for it may happen once too often. We never such a nice little fellow that one would be sorry to part with him, but you evidently don't suit each other, and to be thrown off at a center is no trifle. Could you not hire a safe animal for the little time you have to stay in Danjelling. I shall be very glad to hear that poor Cleffie has met with another good master, who knows his tendencies. That is a pleasant note from little Lawrence. He is a splendid ancestry that boy has. He ought to do something in the world. About Miss Hutchinson, I don't in the least know who she can be, and I can't write to her as you have not returned her letter. What was the name of the lady who came over in the P.O. with you last December, and whom you befriended on the voyage. Unless she is that lady, I cannot associate her with anyone. I hope her immediate needs have been met before now, but when I get her address, I

will mite. Noel's cold which was "on" last
week when I wrote, has cleared away
most wonderfully. He seems to have
no trace of it now. Last Sunday night
I began rubbing his back and chest
with olive oil, and I think this has
very likely helped the cure. Mrs Browne had
recommended it to me. I shall per-
sist with it through the winter.

He writes very industriously now, and
seems full of interest in his lessons.
He is certainly an intelligent boy.
You will note an improvement in
his spelling and writing. He said I
was only to read two pages of his letter,
as there were secrets afterwards, but I
ran straight into his observations of
that beautiful story. His power of ap-
preciating nature will be of great
value to him. The Little People's Club
prizes have been given. Filian has
got the writing prize 3/- and Noel
the second prize for drawing 5/- Cate
Mabel taking a prize for anything.
But she is always honestly glad for the
success of others, which is a good thing.
If you could but see my garden indeed

in the dressing room, it does look so
pretty. Nil. yesterday saw one in Neal's room
not so pretty, which cost 25/- This has
cost 8/6 and is quite an artistic addition
to the room. Do get me some pretty ferns
of the light, feathery kind, before you leave
Dorchester. I have an idea of moving
them for windows. We are busy now
arranging for our Shakespeare reading.
Mrs Joseph and Portier, Mr Seymour
Kempson, Mr Crutwell, head master of
the College, Shylock, Mr Cropper (son in law
of Dr Arnold) Antonio, Mr Jeffrey Smith
Duke of Venice. Mrs Owen Jessica and
Nil, Cordelia Desdemona. There will be about
35 people, and I have been turning the
dressing cases into storerooms, covering
them with the blue damask draperies, so as
to serve for additional seats. He shall
read the play at one sitting, part being
omitted then come into the dining room
for tea, after which the guests shall stand
as they sit. I wish you were here to
help it on, but I don't feel very much
afraid, because the people will have the
play to talk about and plenty of pretty
things to look at. We are having such a
lovely autumn. I don't know when I
have seen such richness of tint on the

times about here. On Saturday Ilian &
Mabel are going with Mrs. Ferryman
to the Northolme Beacon, to hunt
for ferns. I think Mrs. Osborne will go
with them. Ilian is working hard for her
examination in December, and I
am very glad to arrange for her to sit
an evening class this afternoon as she can.
Yesterday being a sunny day, I asked
the people to come for a thing after dinner
and the children had all the afternoon
in the garden. Noel was at school playing
football. Mamma seems to be a little
stronger now, since the colder weather
began. He moves about with more
vigour, though I do not look for any
return of power. He is a holy and beau-
tiful influence in the home. I hope
you will have the book all right soon.
Bacchi's Essay, I mean. I am looking
forward to the reading of the remainder
of Carlyle's life, which is published
tomorrow. There is another little notice
of Lady Norton from the British Quarterly.
Let me have it back when you write next.
You will be glad to know that I am not
contemplating another three decters
at present. My loving kiss to you.