

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> / 81.

5585

My dear Husband,

Here is my first letter  
of the New Year to you and I hope it will be  
a good year for you. Now I count the years  
until we can be altogether again. Your  
visit here has made me feel that it will  
never be right until that time comes.  
I had to post my letter last week before you  
arrived. The children were so delighted  
with their cards. They were the most lovely  
they had received. They have had a fine time  
this Christmas and New Year. Mrs. Buck  
has sent them such a beautiful large  
book, full of pictures and stories, suitable  
for them all. Aunt Susan has sent them  
a box of toys and tractors. Aunt Lettie  
sent Lillian and Mabel a book - "Fairy  
Legends"; and their cousins sent them  
a card each. Aunt Mary sent them a  
card each for New Year's Day, but from  
Uncle Frank there has not been a single  
word to any of us either for Christmas or  
New Year. This, after the children's little  
gifts, and my card to him for Christmas,  
has made me feel rather resentful, but  
thank God we are happy amongst our-  
selves, and at least be remembered as  
or not, matters little.

Mamma is recovering nicely. She talks of coming down stairs tomorrow, but I do not think she will manage it. I have not liked to tell you how very anxious I feel about her. Her strength failed so entirely, and she seemed to have such a conviction that she would not get better. We have managed her so much since she has been confined to her own room. I hope this morning has come in time to enable her to take more care of herself. I send you the greater part of the Bishop of Peterborough's sermon. The introduction is not so good, and refers chiefly to local interests. What he says about the little real good we have attained by all our scientific discoveries, is very good. Life seems all spent in finding out, and when we have found out, there is no time left to enjoy. I am glad you are going to Government House for Christmas, or rather I should say, that you have been. Remember me very kindly to Lady Cooper, and say I have a warm recollection of all her kindness. I am beginning again with my writing. I had to lay it aside for a month or more, whilst Mamma was so poorly. I shall finish it, I hope, in April, and then come the

summer for rest and enjoyment. I do not mean, if I can help it, to go anywhere this summer. I had travelling enough last year to last me for a long time. I hope Aletta and Rilda, and perhaps Muriel will come during the year. You would be pained to hear of the death of George Eliot. What a great light has gone out. I think she had a much higher religious belief than most people give her credit for. Dr Sadler also conducted the funeral services, said that *Flora and Kempis* was, to the last, one of her favourite books. Do you remember I once spoke of it in her "Mill on the Stoop". The Bank shares are sold, so now we are secure from danger there. Mr Clarence Smith is investing the money in three or four different things, which he has chosen carefully. I am very glad it is done, and now the interest, as well as that of my money ought to accumulate, until the children's education is secured and then, if all is well, we shall be able to give ourselves a little ease. Only you must try and let me have the £30 a month regularly. I hope you read my statement of expenses. I am keeping my accounts rather differently this year, having a separate

column for nearly everything, so that I  
may see exactly what I spend in all de-  
partments. The children are very eager  
in keeping their diaries. I have promised  
them 10¢ each if they write regularly every  
day during the year. The cabinet, if they will  
only keep it up, will do them a world of good.  
What would not I give now, if I had any  
record of the days when I was a little girl.  
Thursday. Your letter has not come  
yet, and I must post this today. The  
children have all been writing to  
Chrys, and I have written too, and  
sent him a cabinet group, which  
he received. I have ordered one for Mrs  
Dally too. Nothing from Frank. He  
did spend Christmas with Althea,  
so he would get the little gifts which  
the children prepared for him. I  
do not mind his neglecting me,  
but I do think he might have sent  
them a few years back. Chrys sails  
on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month. It will  
be a hard pull for his mother. He  
has been such a good lad to her.  
Now that Mamma is better, I

am beginning again with my story and sitting on very nicely with it. I like it very much. There is more character and plot in it than in *Dimplethorpe*. See little Josephs are coming one day next week.

Mr Dawson is to have some fireworks for them in our garden, and then they are going to act *Beauty and the Beast* again. I wish you could see them. They look so pretty in their dresses, although they are all made out of old things.

Cannon Joseph sent his kind remembrances to you when I saw him yesterday. The garden is nearly done now, and is very comfortable. I am not sorry to have rather less of it, and £3 less rent. I am making a fresh rookery, and we have planted ivy all along the wall. I fancy I shall spend much of my time this summer in gardening.

Wish love from Susan & P.