

Lindenhous. Aug. 11. 79.



AL/3692

My dear Kelly

It seems an age since I last saw you
and I should so like to hear from you
what you are doing with yourself.
I ought to tell you first that my father
recovered surprisingly since I came
home, though I do not believe he
can last long, nor should I wish it
in his present state, when existence
has ceased to be of any use or enjoy-
ment to himself or others. But I
am glad to say he does not suffer
much, and though his state varies
from day to day, it does not threaten
any immediate danger. Will you

can easily imagine that our life is so much bound up with the frail threads of time, that all sense of serenity and regularity is lost, and we do every thing by snatches only, as it were. Fortunately we have had lovely weather lately, so that we were able to spend most of one day and about half the night in our garden, that is really very pretty now. We had some exquisite evenings and nights, which the end I spent mowing and mowing, when it was not my turn to sit up with papa. I find my little sister a very jolly companion, though you would be shocked at her utter

want of high aims. I have tried at least to form her taste in literature a little but found her quite impervious to Shakespeare and only just tolerant of W. Scott. Just now she reads Tompion's Princess to me by bits, which I know you hate and despise, but I am trying to find an opening for better things than mere modern love-tales in every possible direction. In the mean time I have been so much taken up with my father, that I had to leave my own mind to be quite fallen, which state of things begins to alarm me rather now. So I took up Virgil's Aeneid lately and am going

to have a few lessons on it. I enjoy it
very much so far, but read only one
 canto as yet. It is quite modern compared
to Homer, but the beauty of form
charms me in every line.

I forgot to tell you that I saw Harry
once at the an entertainment which
the Anglo-American club of the students
gave here. There were races of several
kinds, high & long jumps, throwing
of balls etc, and Harry performed
very fairly at some of the feats. I
always like his looks so much; they
are so thoroughly good, fresh and un-
contaminated, and I hear he keeps very nice
company now.

I hear so little from England, but I

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cont.

Adm.
C. M.



with a compliment to please to take as libt of it
to your kind regards and
yours with love
to your kind regards
to your kind regards
to your kind regards

you for some news of my
family. Miss Bidena wrote last
night with a view to
know from me, giving nothing
of the result of the beating
and some volleys of her
Byronian mood. Then I had
advice from my private pupils
at your college, one to inform
me that the writer had been
punished at the National Exam.
in the subject I coached
him German; the other
B.M. candidate, very

happy to inform me she had passed
2^d class, which is quite as much,
if not more than I expected.

I was very glad to hear about those
two, but on the whole I have grown
wonderously callous about examinations
and so indifferent ~~as~~ with regard
to the intellectual advancement
of the human race, that I am
sure I should be a fit object of
your scorn. I am afraid, my
own progress in the higher life
of the course is a very fitful one,
for I always slip back at least

half the length of what I gained,
during the holidays. But at any
rate I keep a fund of admiration
for the steadfast and eager pioneers
of the race, like yourself and Co.
We often talk of you at home, and
I think Mrs. is very anxious to
see and know you, which I hope
to be able and bring about some
day, for there is a plan for her
to come to England for a year and
study at the South Kensington
school of art; only it cannot
be carried out while my father's
state requires so much attendance.

Still, be it sooner or later, I always
look to your friendship as to one
of the few stable and good things
of this life, and hope she will be
the better for it too.

I trust you are well and busy
in the bosom of the "happy family"
please do not consider that last
expression as a feeble attempt at
humour — it would be wronging
my powers of appreciation most
flagrantly. But it is such a rare
thing to see so much beauty, health
and talent represented in numbers
under one roof, that my impression
of your home is always an exceed-
ingly bright one. How good-bye dear
Nelly, I did not want to wind up