

Jan: 20 - 1903

AL/2492

THE MALL HOUSE,
LISMORE,
IRELAND.

Dear Millie

We were indeed truly grieved to hear such sorrowful news from you today. Only a few days ago I was thinking so much of her, & hoping the hard weather would not try her overmuch. My cousin's wife, who was Miss Binnie from Alborough has been ^{staying with us} here ^{we} talked much of you all.

I realize very keenly

What a loss the venerated
head of a family means -
the pacifying, moderating
influence that never
needs to assert itself,
but insensibly heals all
the little rubs & sores
that trouble even the
happiest existences. I
have sometimes thought
we should do well, if
we copied one old
custom of the past, &
when the clan loses
its chief, elected some
one to fill the place
as best he or she ^{could} do.

Large families take some
keeping together, & mutual
loyalty is worth something.
I hope I do not strike
a note that hurts you,
in saying this - but
I know what your mother
was to all her kith &
kin, & when her work
is done one hopes that
it will still be carried
on. I am glad to know
she was spared pain.
So also was a great
friend of ours whom we
are grieving for. She was
81 years of age, & the
only friend left in this

neighbourhood who knew
my grandfather. She died
-very peacefully the other
day, after one of the
most blameless lives we
could imagine.

Give my love & sympathy
to Agnes — they are with
you both. I shall think
much of you.

Ever your affectionate

Fanny to Fanny