

Altham March 9th 1851.

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My dearest Aunt,

I send the ~~enclosures~~
dear Emma said you
was to have, as they
are both associated with
our remembrance of her
whether you will feel with
the colouring of the picture
may be useful. We
are very glad to hear
of its progress and that
you consider the like
most satisfactory. It will
indeed be most valu-
able to us. We shall
be very glad to see
dear Sam on the day
you name or any other

which may be convenient
to you, but we shall
expect her of course on
Thursday. Essie is much
pleas'd with the idea
of paying you a visit
and will return with
Sam. I have now an
important piece of news
to communicate at which
I fear you will be surpris'd
and sorry, and I feel
almost guilty till I have
told you. Papa told
us the other night that
it was absolutely necessary
we should retrench in
our household expediture
we have given notice to
two of the servants and
as this involves our taking

a more active part in the
duties of so large a family
than I feel competent &
physically to fulfil. I
and I wish if we can
to obtain good situations
as governesses. I hope I need
doubt this project will
meet with your approbation
and I wish to make you
comprehend fully the
persons which have consented
to be entertain'd. In
the first place we are
none of us physically strong
& perhaps least so. My
household work is abso-
lutely too much for me. I am
not equal to it. When
if we diled all day
we should only be doing
servant's work at servants.

Wages and as we should
not get these we could
not feel ourselves inde-
pendent. Should the
work be more than they
and Toy could do, the
withholding of the cash
of maintenance of one
of us would be equiva-
lent to the cost of a ra-
vack. Now if we go out
which we do not mean
to ~~go~~ ^{old} under £40 a year
we should be independent
may rich, for we should
be in the receipt of our
income a supply sufficient
to cover all our expenses
we should be improving
our minds, for no one can
teach without learning
a great deal more. No doubt
there would be many disagree-

able to encounter but
 we are prepared to endure
 these with patience, and
 if we were very uncomfortable
 we might come home.
 The governesses in our circle of
 acquaintance seem very
 well off. Miss Davies, Mrs
 Oden's governesses, &c and
 treated with great kindness
 and respect. You may
 perhaps think me all not
 competent for such a
 charge but I am sure
 that if I set about it re-
 solutely I should be able
 to make very satisfactory
 progress. Teaching is to me
 a very agreeable occupation
 I found great interest in
 watching the progress made

by the girls from the village
here whom I taught to
read and write. and
I think that in a short
time, and with the
careful study I should
give I should soon
become a very good
teacher. Miss Davis when
she came to Mrs Heath
had £40 a year and
expenses had £10.
Miss Mitchell £80 and
her washing. I think
there will be no difficulty
in obtaining slight
situations of course in
Unitarian families and
we know a good many
who would interest

themselves for us. I shall
very much like to hear
from you and hope
that you will approve of
our scheme. The disadvantage
on the pain of separation
and the kind of coming
down in the world,
the first is an unmitigated
evil and must be con-
sidered so for the second
I do not think it will
make the least difference
in the conduct of Miss
one we really care for
and we have no end
of acquaintance merely.
We look coolly on us.
For myself I believe it is
one of the best things that
could happen to me. Regular

employment is what I have
long wanted; something
to occupy my mind when
I could feel that every
day I had done my
work and accomplished
something. To set myself
hard at work in study
required more energy and
determination than I
possess and at the dis-
tractious and constantly
recurring occupations of
a position in a large
family yet I have often
felt as if my life was
passing away without
purpose and without
progress. I could not
have gone without being
obliged but now that

I see it is for the best
 I am glad. I should
 be disappointed were
 the necessity to cease, if
 he were to go on as we
 have been doing.
 We are not obliged to
 take the first offer but
 can wait till something
 advantageous appears.
 Jim still goes to the
 mill he does not come
 plain of the fluff but
 has suffered a little from
 headache, ^{once or twice} since he went
 there. perhaps that may
 be owing to the scrap
 dinner which he has
 taken with him and
 as Mr. Bates is going to

make some different
arrangement for him
I hope he will be better.
I think it probable
Leigh will be pleased
with Mr. Ashmole's
but nothing is settled
yet. It would be a
most advantageous
thing for him. Charles
is quite better of his
bronchitis he shall be
very glad when the
weather enables them
to get out. It had been
thought that the look was
or there was and there
is not a sign of vegetation
proceeding. It seems as
if spring never would

come. We all desire
our very best love and
believe me dearest Aunt
ever your most affectionate
niece

Lytton P. Barker

Many sends a shirt which
we suppose may be useful
Henry's if it is not there
is another stay one but
she cannot lay her hand
on it just now
of the two dresses we think
the stone colour would
be the nicest, if it would
suit the picture as well
we have seen her of recent
in it. I am very glad about
the chess, it will be much
more like in her own colour
the caps she commonly wore

are all very shabby and
associated as much with
her sufferings as with herself
so we send one of her best
and deed it with the chess
pieces. The orange with
sheer is so painfully
connected with her
last illness