

April 25th 1861. Aldburgh ^{AL/2919}

Thursday

My dear Emily

Thanks for your

letter. I am glad you like having
"Silas Hamer," I have not read it yet
as the copy here has been lent, but we
are to have it in time to read before I leave.

Jane is already looking better, she is
out a good deal, and sleeps well.

I think she means to go back on Saturday.

I have written a letter to "Open Council,"
—giving the readers of the E W J a short
account of my prospects &c. I was moved
to do it by some conversation I had with
Mr. Munn a few days before I came
home. He said, on consideration he could

M. W.

English Women's Journal

not allow me to work in the dissecting
Room, except when he or some of the
other Demonstrators ~~was~~ was present;
The reasons he gave were the general laziness
of the students, especially of those who did
nothing else; the work itself was not the
objection, he was sure men & women could
do that together as well as anything else
but he would not risk putting me with
the idle students. However he made ample
amends by saying that he would like to
see a separate room given up to women for
this branch of the work, and all examinations
shared by them. I thought this was enough
to satisfy us, & he is really more likely to
know how far we may rely on the good
feeling that can be called out in the young men,
than we do. If he were to propose these things
to the Medical Committee, they would probably
meet with more attention if there were several

women candidates, so I thought this was
a good time to make a more vigorous
attempt than I have done hitherto, to
get some companions. As long as I am
in an unrecognized position, it is almost
better to be alone, but if there is any
chance of the committee's admitting
women as students, (the separate dissecting
room being the sole line of distinction)
they should know that there are several
women ready at once to accept the offered
privilege. All Mr. Mann said was only on
his own responsibility, and the committee
may prove much more unmanageable
than he thinks it will be. If you would
speak of this prospect to any one whom
you may think likely to spread ^{it} among
the right people, it may be a stimulus to
some one. I have not said much about

it in my open council letter, as I was rather afraid to put Mr. Norris's personal views forward in print; it might lead some ignorant people into a false idea of our prospects, and also annoy him or his colleagues, as it has not been mentioned to them. I have taken the encouraging line about the difficulties attendant on mixing with the other students & the doctors, and the simple statement of the things that have ^{been} conceded to me reads very encouragingly. I wonder if it will lead to our knowing any candidates.

I would have sent the letter to you for revision, but there was only just time to polish it up as well as we could & send a fair copy to Miss Parker, & even now I am not sure it was in time.

I have read the article in Macmillan on "Novelists." It is very nice, and one is glad to read such thoughtful criticism.

AL 2919
I still I cannot agree with a good deal
of it. It seems to me that it is a great
thing to be taught to admire Maggie's
imperfect nobleness more than Tom's
narrow correctness - it is what one
has to do constantly in any just ap-
-preciation of people; I mean, that we
want to know their aims more than
the accomplishment of them, just as
David could be called "after God's heart"
after doing some things very much worse
than most inferior people do. The whole
question of judging people is full of diffi-
-culty, the command not to judge seems
to be met by the necessity for some kind
of judging. One is obliged to do it constantly
in one's own mind, even if it is not
spoken judgement; perhaps the spirit of
it is that we cannot judge by acts, with
the narrow dogmatic spirit ^{in which} we are always
tempted to approach them. We had a

Very uncomfortable discussion the other day, whilst reading this article. Gertrude Fildewood was with us, & she asked if the tale about Miss Evans were true; fortunately our parents were not here nor Edmund, so no one else was told it, but Louie was more inclined to blame her very strongly than I like to hear. Her case seems to be precisely one of the things we cannot judge, nor does it seem to me that this hesitation brings any moral perplexity as to our own actions. Whatever solution there may be in her case, the ordinary landmarks of right & wrong are clear enough for most people.

I should like you to criticize my paper, if you do it mind the trouble. I know there are several faults in its sense, &

Willis showed me those, and also the omissions, so you may cut up the style only. I think the mental looks at subjects are what I must give more time to. My temptation always is to be doing something tangible, & fitting state thinking goes against this, but I believe it would save time in the end. Alice quarrels with some parts of my letter, where you will see I have said "thousands of women would have less (mental) difficulty than I have" it is naturally difficult to compare oneself fairly with others, & perhaps very useless to attempt doing so, but still I am pretty sure this is true, & I was very anxious to protest against the notion of this work being the special vocation of the

most gifted. I am reading very little
even now. The days seem to slip by,
and there are a good many people
to see & letters to write. I thought of
writing to Miss Blackwell soon, if
my letter gets into ~~the~~ ^{next} month's journal.
I have stupidly lost her letter, or mislaid
it. I knew it pretty well by heart, but
it is vexing not to have it. I don't think
my impatience with Dr. Willis arose
from physical or mental weariness,
I had often felt it as strongly before
but had not written to you at the
right moment. I go home on Friday,
I mean to try to get into Dr. Thompson's
lectures on Materia Medica; I know enough
to profit by them, & the more I push now
the better chance there will be in October.

Yours with much love
S. Garrett