

[B.W.]

190

1869?

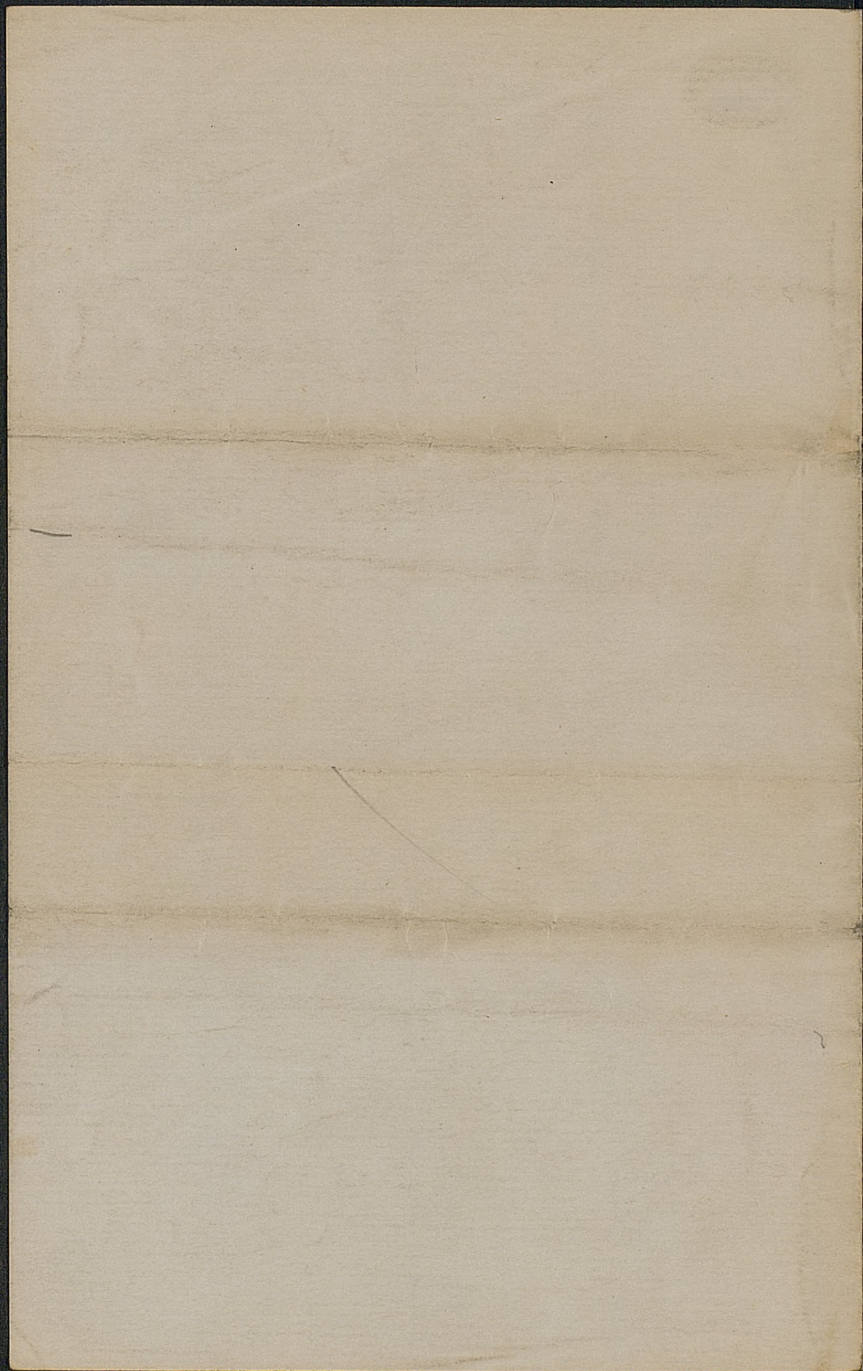
I am quite confident that the education of girls is very much neglected in the way of ~~these~~ private reading.

A female for instance just of to nine or ten years old, she is either forbidden to read any but child's books, or she is left to look on <sup>a</sup> good library; if Walter Scott's novel is recommended to her as charming and interesting stories "books that can not ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> possible harm", says her adviser declares. But books that the object in reading is to gain knowledge and and a novel now - there is a mere recreation to be offered to a growing mind, it cultivates the imagination, but taken as the uncontingent nourishment, it ~~is~~ <sup>destroys</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> may ~~young~~ <sup>young</sup> as a young mind.

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the whole of their thought  
(for a child of nine or ten spends  
little or no thought on her lessons)  
is wasted on making up  
love scenes, or building  
castles in the air, or sentimental  
where she is always the charming  
heroine, without a fault.

I have <sup>found</sup> it a serious stumbling  
block to myself, whenever  
I get alone & I always find  
myself building castles in  
the air of some kind, it is  
a habit that is so thoroughly  
imured in me, that I can-  
not make a good resolution  
without making a castle  
in air about it.

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[B.W.] [with note entitled "The autumn of 1872"  
and dated 23 Dec. 1872] [probably  
contemporary with note of "1869?"  
above]

(192)

D<sup>r</sup> Mayer's sermon.

We first dwell on the fact  
that the Holy Ghost was given  
not only to the apostles, but  
to the whole world. We  
showed what ~~so~~ an immense  
consolation it was to believe  
in the bible. We continued  
as follows: They are no doubt  
there are many just &  
righteous men, who begin with  
a firm conviction that there  
is a just & merciful God  
though they may not believe  
in the bible, or in Christ.

That if they believe in that  
God, they must believe in  
the immortality of the soul.  
For how could that just God

create men to be miserable  
and moreover allow that  
these men who are the most  
just & the most like himself  
to be the most miserable.

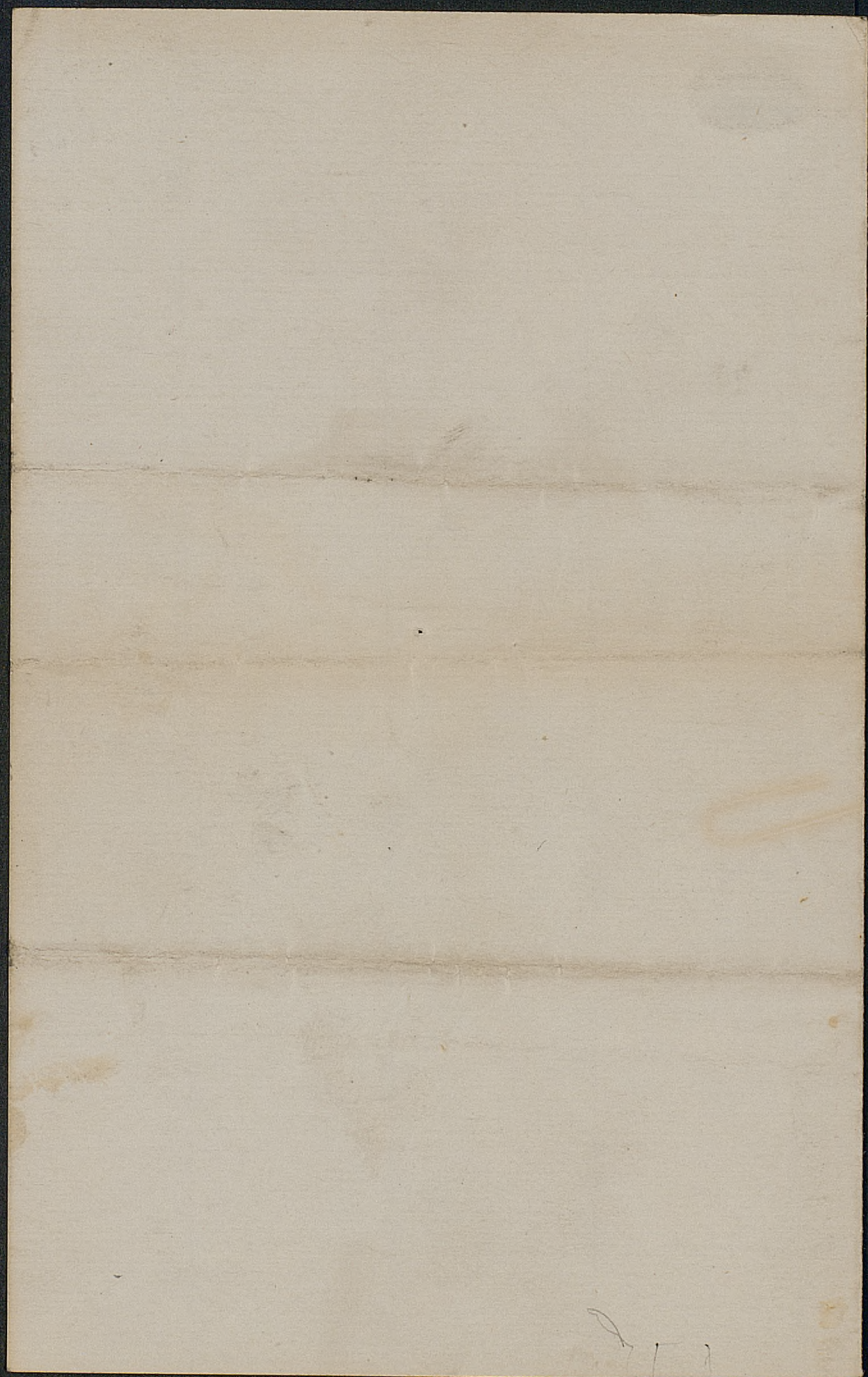
For how often one sees an  
old man living in health &  
in opulence, while a good  
man old is living in sickness  
and misery. If that is a  
juster life there is the recompense  
of of the good & the just.

But to the Deist there is no  
certain proof, and no authority  
to take up to. They have no  
proof that God listens or even  
hears that their prayers.

The heaven is brass above them  
and the ~~to~~ earth is a desert  
beneath them, what have  
they to turn to, for they are

themselves back on themselves.  
 Perhaps ambition, patriotism  
 will stand instead of wants,  
 will stand instead of Ulysses  
 during their life, but on their  
 deathbed, there is the dread-  
 ful blank, what hope what  
 comfort have they got.

Too often one sees the swift  
 stream of Deism will bear  
 many a good & man through  
 the valley by human entered  
 and reasoning into the  
 wild and cordifolles  
 seas of Atheism.





[See My apprenticeship, 62-63] 23 Dec. 1872

The Autumn of 1872.

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STANDISH HOUSE,  
STANESBOROUGH,  
GLoucestershire.

This autumn unsatisfactory to me in many ways, I have hardly learned anything in the way of lessons, honestly speaking. I have been extremely idle, especially during and after the company. But one thing I have learnt is, that I am exceedingly vain, to say the truth I am very disgusted with myself, whenever I am in the company of any gentleman, I cannot help wishing to make an and doing all I possibly can, to attract his attention and admiration, the whole time I am thinking how I look, which attitude becomes me, and contriving every possible to make my self more

liked and admired than sisters

The question is, how can I conquer it, for it forwards every bad passion, and suppresses every good one in my heart; the only thing I can think of, is to avoid gentlemen's society, altogether, I feel I am not good enough to ~~resist~~ fight any temptation at present. I have not enough faith.

Talking about faith, I don't know what to say about it, I think about myself, I believe and yet I am acting always acting contrary to my belief, when I am doing any silly action, when I am indulging my vanity, I hear a kind of voice saying within me, "It doesn't matter at present what you say and do,

if there is a God, which I very much doubt, it ~~will~~ will be time to think of that when you are married or an old maid", and what is worse still I am constantly acting on that idea. Mean while I feel my faith slipping from me, Christ seems to have been separated from me by huge mass of worldliness & vanity.

I hear no more. I can no more pray to him with the same earnest faith as I used to do, my prayers seem mockery, I pray against temptations, which I run into of my own accord, and then I complain secretly that my prayers are not answered, and intellectual difficulties of faith makes it impossible to believe. I am very very wicked, I feel if Christ ever listens to me again.

Vanities all is vanity. I feel that  
 have transgressed deeply that I  
 have trifled with the Lord, I feel  
 that if I continue thus I shall become  
 a frivolous, silly, unbelieving woman,  
 and yet every morning when I awake  
 I have the same a giddy confident  
 feeling, and every night. I am miserable.  
 The only thing is to give up any pleasure  
 rather go in to society, it may be hard,  
 in fact I know it will, but it  
 must be done, else I shall lose  
 all the remaining branches specks  
 of faith, left and with those all  
 the chances of my becoming a good  
 and useful woman in this world,  
 and a companion of our Lord in  
 the next. Dec. 23. 1872.

Beatrice Potter

May God help me to keep my resolutions

Detached reflexions by  
Beatrice Potter  
1869[?] - 1872

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Found among the other papers and  
placed with the diary 6 January 1955.

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