

Nov. 12/83.

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My dear Husband,

Last Sunday I received £40 from the India Office, and yesterday came your letter, with one from the Bar-jeelip Bant containing £30. for which I enclose receipt, so now I have a good balance at the bank, and I am well beforehand in money matters. I pay as I go, which produces much comfort. The mail this week is earlier, for the last two weeks your letters have not arrived until after I had posted mine. You do not say anything about the box. It ought, I think to have arrived by the day you note. I know I sent it at the end of August. Perhaps by this time a letter is on its way to say when you are really coming home. It will be a happy time for us all when you do arrive. Every thing now seems to have reference to it. When I make any little improvement in the house or garden, I always think to myself that you will see them before long. You must make Esther some little present when you come. Her four years' good service deserves it. I think it will be a very sensible plan for Althea to meet you somewhere on the road.

as I think to go to Lacrosse will be con- siderably out of your way, and every hour will be precious. If you come to spend any time in Nottingham over your teeth, Frank can meet you there and then the time you spend at the Hollies will be sacred to ourselves. You may rest assured that I will not judge your spending time with your own people if when you are here, we can be quiet together. It will be better for me not to go from home with you at all, this time. I quite plead guilty to what you say about my remarks concerning the Hollies people, and I have made a resolution to be quiet in future, for I know I cannot speak without saying more than I ought. But when you remind me in differently, you try to vex my people, you must remember that they have been uniformly kind and respectful to you and very loving to your children. You have not to remember from mine, as I have from yours, accusations and aspersions degrading to any honourable person. And when these accusations were abundantly disproved by me, they were never with drawn. These things are past now, and I have lost all bitterness.

in connection with them. They cannot touch any more the harmony and peace of my life; but there they are. And I think I must tell you now, what I did not mean to have told you, only your letter has brought it to my mind, that vexed me very much when Alethea was here two years ago. She once or twice introduced the subject of her leaving the sole of your Mother's property, but I put it aside, not wanting to make it a subject of conversation. However one night, when the children had gone to bed, she brought it forward in such a direct way that I was obliged to listen. She said that as regarded the legal right, that of course was settled, but she also had a moral right, you having paid so insufficiently for the children, when they were in your Mother's charge. She said you only paid £80 a year for them all that time, which did not meet the actual outlay, to say nothing of trouble. I replied to her that as regarded the property I had really nothing to do with it. I had not been present when the matter was talked over among yourselves in Nottn and I had no opinion to give about it. But I did most entirely contradict

the statement that you only paid £80 for
the children whilst they were with your
mother, and without further ado I brought
out my balance sheet, made in India
from your banking books and my
own accounts, showing that for the first
year of your absence £100 was paid,
the next £125, the next 150, the next,
and until I took charge of the children
myself £175, with school fees, medical
attendance, and travelling expenses,
rather. Aletta looked at the balance
sheet and said she did not know how
she and Frank, who of course were the
only people concerned in the accounts,
could have so misunderstood them.
I said I was very much amused that
you should have lain under such an
imputation of having your children
taken care of for less than they cost, and
then she asked me not to mention the
matter to you. I said it was not my
intention to do so at that time. But
I did write to both Lou and Frank
telling them how grieved I was that such
a statement should have been made
about your payments for the children
and enclosing the correct figures.

Your note to me saying it was all
right any way, but Frank never replied.
He used to receive the money, whilst
we were in India, and settle & forget
or did not keep account of them. I do not
know, but evidently, Althea thought that
£80 was all that was paid. So there was.
I have told you, for I think it is quite
right you should know. So go back to
some matters. Noel has a bad cold, so bad
that for three days I did not let him go to
school, but he has started again this ^{morning}
I shall keep him at home ^{tonight} however this ^{evening}
noon, to avoid the night air, for he does not
come home until seven. I have been
up in the middle of the night several times
to give him something to still his cough,
it troubled him so but it has not made
him at all poorly. He is a dear loving boy.
There is wonderful beauty about his
character. Indeed they are all good children
but there is a tenderness and sensitiveness
about Noel above the others. He had the States
House meeting on Monday at Mr Crutwell's
(College Master) the play Henry 8th. See next is A
Mrs Joseph's, the play "Lear" Mr Joseph always
enquires about you. He is now reading aloud
the Idylls of the King. The children are much inter-
ested in it. They are developing a good literary
taste. I hear is very understanding in

all his work. Lee is beginning to play very
nicely, and he will sing all too. How
happy you will be with them all, I hope,
some day. I think it will be a good plan
to send all these cars from Cedarville.
You will not now want them any more
in India. Do not buy anything at
that Cedarville Exhibition. Yourself
will be far the best gift you can bring.
He has got a nice photograph of Noel
amongst Mr Douglas's school boys.
Love from us all, and mamma
included also is better now.
Ever your loving Sp.

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