

See Hollis. Feb 19th / 85

My dear husband,

I cannot give you a very good account of ourselves this week, for we will seem to be laid up with something or other. Both Estlin and Agnes have colds and I coughing about all week. I was starting one when I wrote to you last week. It settled on my chest and I was in bed all Friday and Saturday. How Mabel has the worst cough I have ever known in Lane. She has not been to school for four days. I was really afraid of looping cough, but I don't think it is going to be that one. Yesterday I was in bed all day with the headache, and at night Mabel's cough was so troublesome that I had to get up three times before two in the morning to give her something for it. After this and the usual waiting on mamma, you will know that I am not good for much today. M. C. comes in and looks after

thing else I cannot keep up any longer. I have not been out of the house for ten days. Mabel's cough seems better today. I hope Lilian and Noel will keep free, as it is so important for them to keep on with their lessons. Mabel's does not improve so much, but she does write a little at home. I wrote to four more of the life preservers last week, but all to no purpose, so I think now I shall finally give it up. One of them eventually wrote his reply on the back of my own letter, though I had enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope. What do you think of that for a gentle man!!

I was very much interested in the account of your visit to Calcutta. I should like to have seen some of the old familiar places with you, but of the people, only Mrs Dalby. How wonderfully that Mr White has got on. I remember

him as Magistrate when I was there and his wife a pleasant intelligent girl, just married. Poor Mr Harrison. Do you think he was a prose in some previous stage of existence? You will see in the Guardian that a Columbus duggerman has become a convert to Buddhism. I think I shall buy for you two books of Mr Dill's. You must have a good library on Eastern subjects. What you say about native life interests me very much. I have always thought our missionaries would do more good if they would renounce, as you are able to do, the good side of their old faith. He seems to start with the persuasion that everything is to be swept away as hopelessly bad, and I am quite sure the supporters of missions think so too. In my mind, Christianity as it is now nominally professed and practised by most Christians, needs as much reformation as Buddhism.

You God and Master would appear
amongst us again in a bodily form.
In fact you would really receive him
into our hearts and homes.

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Mamma continues about the same.
She sends her love to you. It is a
lovely clear bright matter after a fortnight
of doom. I hope it will do all as
you wish people good. I understand
now that you will visit to me in
April and then come for May, June,
July and August, sending again
in September. I shall be able to do
very well by using the half year's
dividends. I wonder what you will
say to my big plan of a voyage for myself
and Lillian. I think this, I must go
somewhere else than I am. But, so long as
I think and see clearly that my place
and my best work is here, at home, I
can be content. If failing health
come, it will come in the way of duty
and so will bring its own blessing.
You will tell your little story. He is
a good hard working boy, and so is
Lillian, with the exception of being a girl.
Love ever yours
E. J.