

G. T. C. Johnson Esq 5709

Lottley House
Aelford, Lincs.

August 18th / 66.

My dear Mary Catharine.

Washed, ~~took~~ and

I got here all right on Saturday evening. We dropped Noel at Nottingham as his aunt wished him to stay a few days there. Mrs English, our landlady, had got everything so comfortable for us, and Miss Abbott had sent over everything we wanted for our first meal.

Mary had put flowers in the rooms. She and Mrs Johnson were at the station with the traps to meet us, and Miss Abbott was at the cottage. They are truly kind hearted people. All goes on pleasantly. Your card was here when I arrived, and yesterday your letter of Friday, came. Next visit to the pleasant cottage would

I feel much better since we came here.

be a real pleasure. Such a life is far
more worth and nobility than all
best and London put together. I
should like to have seen the spinning.
Our old woman is coming this
afternoon to give us our first
lesson. She could not come either
yesterday or Monday, as she is often
sent for to keep house for people. She
is to come at half past three and
stay tea, so as to leave plenty of time.
She is as much interested in it as
we are. Those pieces that we sent
seem very strong and good. Are
they cotton or flax. I shall be glad
when I can spin as even a thread.
We have a grand expedition on
land. Now that we are so far on the
way to York, I have decided to take
Mabel and Noel, and Mary
is to join us. We start from
here at 10 on Friday morning,

reach York at 1.45. Leave on Saturday
at 3.30. and get back here at 9.
We shall not create ourselves known
to anyone, but just wander about
as we like, and we shall take our
meals and get beds at a coffee tavern.
If only we can get fine weather.
It will be very beautiful. We shall
divide our time chiefly between
the Minster and Museum gardens,
but I shall not go into the Museum
for fear of happening on Mr. Latafield.
With a good thick veil and the child
dressed in colours, I am not afraid
of being recognised in the streets. I
have long wanted to go to York without
having to speak to anyone there.
The N.E. dividend came yesterday,
through Carrie, as before, so the transfer
business does not seem to be done
yet. See York gas dividend came direct
to me. I wrote to you at the Hotel
Daily last Friday, enclosing C. Smith's
contract note and his letter to me.

I also sent a packet of Pull Malls. I
hope both would reach you. I shall
send this to the Poste Restante. Noel
seems to be having a pleasant time
at Nottam. He meets us at Lincoln on
Friday for York, and then we shall be
here all together until Sept. 4th, when
we return to Malvern. Ilian had
her outing to Nottam and London,
or she would have been with me
here, and I'm thought Mabel would
be the better of some country air. She
is not nearly so strong as Ilian. The
York visit will be a splendid treat.
I'm gone Ilian her choice between
London and Tottley, and she chose
London. As we go home on Sept. 6th
we shall take an early train and spend
the day in Lincoln, to see the Cathedral,
which Noel and Mabel will have had
a good time, to set against the attractions
of London. Mabel and Mary plimou
send their love to you. Mary is so
bright and kind. I'm sure we put a
load deal of pleasure into it.
Your affectionate S. T. Stephens.

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