

Aldeburgh . AL/29776

Xmas Day

1870

Dearest Milly

I quite meant to write to you yesterday, but on Friday night my horizon was suddenly changed by Mr. Anderson asking me to marry him.

We are engaged. I do hope my dear you will not think I have meant

deserted my post. I think
it need not prove to be
so & I believe that he
w^d. regret it as much as
I or you w^d. I am sure
that the woman question
will never be solved in
any complete way so
long as marriage is
thought to be incompatible
with freedom & with
an independent career,
∇ I think there is a very

good chance that ^{we} I may
be able to do something
to discourage this notion

He came down one
train after me yesterday
& is already quite at
home with everyone.

I hope you will like him
& that Harry will too
when you meet. This
afternoon we have all
been on the ice, he introduced
himself to Alders' on it

(having been hidden in the
corporation few this morning
& won a favorable verdict
by beating them all.

The dear parents are very
pleasant about it, tho'
the father was I fancy
a little disappointed that
I should marry at all.
However they like him,
wh_{ich} is a gr_{eat} point.

I am very happy, dear
Milly. I think we shall
be married at Easter. There
is nothing to wait for as

conv. Av/ 2975.

our joint income will
be a very good one &
we are both certainly
old enough. We think
of looking at once for
a larger house somewhere
in my own or the Grosvenor
Square district. We have
agreed not to be married
by the Ch of England service
& to have no religious service
unless we can find one
we like. I dare say it
will end in our using the

Scotch form & bargaining
beforehand for no catechism
as to obedience.

Give my love to Maria
& Mr & Mrs Fawcett & Harry

There is no reason for
keeping my engagement a
secret & I dare say
they will be interested to
hear of it.

Your dearest Milly

Yours lovingly

Elizabeth Barrett