

Lee Hollis.

Malvern Fork. Sept. 7th

85.

My dear Husband,

I had your letter

this morning, and as I cannot do anything this afternoon but sit in Mamma's room, I will begin to get mine ready. For the last week I have been busy with Jampett making the rookery where the potato bed used to be. I have laid the currant and gooseberry beds mixed closer down the garden, so that the stone as you enter, may be ornamental. I have also laid the tennis lawn enlarged by taking in to the side and end paths. I believe now it is nearly full sized. The rookery consists of several paths, and is made round one of the damson trees under which we shall have a seat. The stone, when done, will be a great improvement, and as I am laying it made instead

of going anywhere for my own
amusement (that being now im-
possible) it will not be an extraor-
dinary addition to the family ex-
penses. The whole, including the
tennis lawn, will cost under
£3.10. The account of the Calcutta
milk is perfectly dreadful. I hope
you will be able to get your son
corrupted. What a cruelty it seems,
both to the men and the animals,
to leave them under such con-
ditions. Another illustration of
the evil of great cities. It never
entered my mind that either you
or the children should be total
abstainers as regards London
amusements. Indeed it would
be very unjust in me, having
seen the operas and the theatres
there, to want to keep them from
seeing any. No, they must think
and act for themselves. My son

conviction has been a long, old
winding one, and for myself, I
must act upon it, only making
it clearly understood that I do
not do so from any evangelical
religious motive. I abhor great
cities, and the sin they foster,
and that is one way of showing
my abhorrence.

I do not think the children are
getting astray in their reading.
William read the first parts of the
"Fairy Queen", and then I said he
had better leave it. Noel has not
read any work of fiction for some
time except "Westward Ho", "Robin-
son Crusoe" and one of mine.
He does not much care for stories,
and can always amuse himself
better in painting and gardening
when he is not busy with his
lessons. He is very independent
of books, and his taste, when he

does read, is good. Mabel too,
has given over caring for much
story reading. He is now reading
Ruskin's "Bible of Amiens," which
contains much good French
history, and also a beautiful
account of St. Jerome. He is
fond of history, and has a fair
knowledge of it. He and Ilian do
a couple of hours study in the
morning. I think Ilian will
like to enter for the Cambridge Senior
next year, but you will decide that
when you come. I am waiting for
Wool's certificate of birth. I have
today ordered the magazine you
mentioned to Ilian. The photographs
have not been sent yet. I hope they
will be good ones. You will notice
a maturing in both faces since
you saw them last. Mabel has no
lack of good ideas, only of resolution
to bring them to effect. You lovingly