

Melbourne, Jan 9th 80.

5567

My dear Husband. I was very disappointed
not to hear from you last week, though
I did get the remaining halves of the two £10
notes from Mrs Robinson, to whom I wrote
the same day, acknowledging the receipt of
them. I shall be all right now for a while.
Mamma has got downstairs again now,
which you may be sure is a great joy to us
all. I cannot tell you how delighted I feel
sometimes, at the thought of losing her, how
lovely I am now that she is given
back to us again. I hope she may yet
be spared to us for years. I have been
very busy with the children in the gar-
den this last week, planting ivy under
the new wall and over the trellises. I
hope it will all take root, and then we shall
look very green and pretty when you come
home. Yesterday I looked out the dresses
for the children's set, which is to be next
Saturday. I am arranging oriental cos-
tumes for Beauty and her sisters. I dressed
Mabel up last night, in trial, and very
lovely she looked, quite a little Hindoo
maiden, a long scarlet petticoat and a
white tunic with scarlet braiding over it
and a muslin chuddah, with a little round
cap on the top, and some of my native dress.

parents on lemons. I have the same sort of
dresses for the steers, and I have not spent
a penny over them. They are all made up
out of old things, and the Indian embroidery
I have. Mr Joseph is coming and Miss
Greaves and Mary Lattarine, and I hope
will hope he will enough to stay up and
see it. I am going to screen off one end
of the dressing room and have a table
with all the Benares vases & such, for the
banquet to which the Beast invites Beauty
and we shall have the tiger and leopard
skins spread over to give an Eastern
appearance. I wish photographs were not
so expensive, or I should like to have
them all photographed for you. I think?
must make enquiries somewhere as to
what it would cost. I have sent Henry one
of the cabinet groups, as he wanted it to
take out to China with him. He and
Cecilia went to London yesterday, and he
sails on Friday. It will be a sad coming
home for her. I don't think you will
feel an English winter half so much
as you fear. You cannot think how im-
portable this house looks with good
large fires about, and then everything
is arranged for comfort. It is not like
an Indian establishment. In my in-

part I have felt cold in India as much
as ever I did in England. The children
all keep very well, and are as good and
loving as any one could desire. Noel
amuses himself with carpentering. He
has just made a nice little set of shelves
for his room, out of an old box, which he
has papered. He will be very fond of making
and mending, as he grows up. I am getting
on with my story. This week, if all is well,
I shall finish the pencil copy, and then
I shall wait until February to begin
writing it, as Carrie Noble (from Thorney)
and Miss Susan may be coming to
see us this month. He read the story of
Elisha and the Shunammite woman
this morning. The children are very
interested. See day has been so sunny that
I have not let them go to church. Give
my love to Mrs Todd. Does she still live
at that house near you. I wonder if I
shall ever see India again. Callahad
I do not suppose I ever shall, nor do I
mourn for that. But I should like to spend
a little time with you in a hill station.
That time at Bargueing is a life long
pleasant memory for me. I got the
photographs all right from Doloppe, and

have mounted them. I told you I had
ordered two of St. Martin, taken under
Mr. Kestlin's direction. They are very
fine. I have mounted them too, in the
books, and a fine collection we have now.
It is a great pleasure to look over them
and recall the days we have spent here.
After all we are laying up much store
for our old age if we are spared, in these
travels. But Borneo, why do you want
to go there.

Pawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1

8089