

Mary C. Tabor is
her sister

Auchincloss Aug 29th 1880 -
Monday 5 o'clock -
5737

My dear Eliza

This has been a really pleasant day and makes me feel quite sorry to leave Auchincloss. I told you about going in to see Mrs Buchanan. On Friday evening Dora Buchanan came and after I had considered a good deal I gave her your book for her mamma to read. On Sunday afternoon at the S. School Dr Buchanan came to ask after you and asked in how wrote "Woodcroft". I said it was you. He said he was reading it and how very much pleased he was with it "but I had no idea" - "he said" and we smiled at each other and he went away. This morning I went to call I had a good excuse for I was to invite Dora to come & stay at Spoutport till Thursday. First came the Doctor and we had a very pleasant talk together. He gave me three little books of his which one by one I will send you only take care of them - then he inquired very kindly about you. He seems so really interested in us and I love him your messages. Then Mrs Buchanan came in and after awhile the Doctor went into the willall. She begged me to stay awhile and we had a long talk. She told me about her children and how she could not bear to enquire of the people after her losses. She felt as if she could not bear to have her grief touched by their inquiries even of kindness. She spoke a great deal & very sweetly about them and said she felt almost as if her life were a shadow over her children. She carried such a mournful presence about with her. She said she never smiled but she felt the pain at her heart. She wished very much she had seen you and known as cooner - At last I came away and went over the glbe with Dora & Maggie. Then back alone to the Churchyard where I sat on the wooden box. It contains something belonging to the heating apparatus of the church - I read "The Charter of Pittarow" which Dr B. had just given me and home to dinner.

At one we were to have a drive with him I did so
wish you had been our companion instead of Maggie
& Dora. You may fancy how pleasant our talk was
during our two hours drive. I told him as one in
England knew about Woodcroft. He said he did so wish
he had known you sooner & more; he would have taken
you about and let you see the people and Scottish
life you may be sure I wished it too. I believe he
has really enjoyed us. I never had the courage though to
tell him about our Methodism. That is a pea there is
no way of boiling; the only way is to let it up into the
tree or somewhere and hope that it will keep in its
corner. I wish we were fairly orthodox children of the
Church. I suppose it is not as it should be but one
has something the feeling as if we bore the brand of
illegitimacy when we sit among establishment people.
He said he hoped you would come into Scotland again
and come to Antrimblae and we will see more of you.
It seems as if it would be a thing to think very pleasant
to. I might he has a prayer-meeting then I shall say good
bye to him for how long I wonder? We seem to have
tracked at so many points our two lives for a little
while to have flowed along together and not just
alongside of one another. I feel as if Montrose
looked very dreary for a ten months prospect. I should
like very much to come at Christmas but that would
leave only a fortnight for Midsummer. We shall see
when the time comes. Mr W. was "crooked" rather on
Sunday & as much as hinted that we ought not to
have stopped by a bye it came out fine & he relaxed.
In the evening I told him about my bout with Maggie
and its results and took care to hold my hold well. I
fancy he requires the same dealing as she does. Keeping
down - I went on Saturday evening & sat in the church-
yard and sat there along time & again last night.
Antrimblae seems much more my home now
than anywhere else in Scotland. We have had
some pleasant times there together. It will be a
place now in days to come to make a pit.

grim age to when we go to visit the shrines which
memory has made sacred. It is strange how we
keep taking up one after another into our hearts and
finding a warm corner for them when a little while
before there seemed no room for any new interests.
Little thought when we came away from Rome that
I should have got such a link to give me a hold here.
I thought of you hearing Mr Wiseman on Sunday morn-
ing & at church at night. It was a great disappointment
hearing a stranger instead of the good doctor. I wanted
to remember his last words. He talks again and again
about you always keeps coming back to say something
or other of his thoughts about you - I wish we
had our Antrimblae time to come over again when
you went away in such dreaminess I felt ready to
regret that you had come at all and afraid that
you would think it had hardly been worth all the time
& trouble & expense. But always we seem to spend
our time more in regretting past & lost opportunities
than in making the best of present ones. I felt just
as about Mrs Morrison - Miss Maxwell seemed to
put us in a bustle then. We should have been "still".
I am very glad you have come near together.
Our own lives grow very fast in a few moments
when quite close to that of another. I hope you
will enjoy her coming at Christmas - It was
an escape - their not coming here in one respect
- I am glad the boys were all so kind and
that they seemed so disposed to be friendly. It was
a pity "Wally" did not get home in time - also about
the hill drive to Perth - you would have seen Macbeth's
grave - also that you did not get to Montrose.
I shall have the remembrance or imagination
of your presence now in my room at Montrose
even the "crunker" will be like a plain yare
with a fine or kindly thought shining through its
unprepossessing features - I hope the

Jerns will do well - I should very much like
to have a look into your room - I am
glad that the York people are giving such
a hearty farewell to Mr Wiseman. If you should
see him again tell him my thoughts & good wishes
go after him - I am sorry Mrs Lowe did
not see Mrs Morrison - What a pity about
not going to Mr Harveys. It might perhaps
not have been enjoyable at the time but such
things are life different from the "laids" en-
tertainment - We must not give "the
house over the way" at Mouthrose - at least
not unless it gets a Dr Buchanan or some one
to warm it up and keep one from shivering
at taking it & its belongings into ones heart
We had better look out for a site at Anclimble

I am going to read Dr Arnold's life, and
hope to get the other books into the library -
I made a velvet cushion and put a pearl
buckle I had in front. It does admirably
but takes more velvet than I had thought. I just
tacked it firmly on & then turned the velvet in
quite at the bottom so as not to show. The paper
pattern is an exact fit - I wish you could
bring Anclimble into the book. I should like to feel
that it had a sort of cairn erected over it. We
should know ourselves how many pleasant
thoughts lay beneath the printed words. It is a pity
that you cannot get more time for it. I would
make a push if possible for this autumn or winter.
Another year seems a long time and Spring an unfavorable
one - I rather wondered at Mr Morrell's letter. I
must send it another time for this will be heard. Thank
him for it. I must acknowledge it myself some time.
I suppose Mr & Count Bauls would find him. I am
gone now to the meeting & for a farewell to the
wooden ^{house} of your most affly
servant, Bathurst Labor.