

Fellows, I often remember her, and I send  
my good wishes to her sister. Allahabad. April 26<sup>th</sup>/77.  
5543

My dear Mamma

It is getting very hot here now, and we have the prospect of being hotter and hotter until the end of June, when the rains will come. But I cannot say that it is causing us so much discomfort as it did last year. I live entirely now in my bedroom which I have made to look as nice as I can, and a thermantidote is constantly working fresh air into it. The thermometer has not been over 86 in this room yet. Last year it generally stood at 90, with both punkah and thermantidote. This room opens into John's study which lets cooled air to be never use the dressing room at all now, except when we have visitors. I am thankful to say we have no guests at present, nor the prospect of any. Mrs. Hall, whom we visited at Benares, came to see us yesterday. She is staying with Mrs. Kees on her way to the hills. See by the papers this morning, that war is actually declared. I wonder what the end of it will be, and whether England will get drawn into it. If so, it may interfere with repairs going to and from India. In my own part I feel as if I wanted both sides to get a beating. There have been two very interesting notices of Harriet Martineau's life in the Spectator

and another very long one in the weekly  
edition of the Times. I am looking forward  
very much to reading the book for myself.  
They sent us a novel yesterday from the  
library - Diana Carey, which I think is as  
mischievous as anything Rhoda Breynton  
ever wrote, and I am surprised to see it is  
published by H & B. It is very clever.  
We see the Spectator regularly, and a great  
treat it is. In the Illustrated last week was an  
excellent portrait of Dr Caldwell, with a long  
account of him. He is a really interesting  
man, and Dr Statham his secretary, also  
stands with us is equally so. I am busy  
now making arrangements for the little  
Parrell children's voyage. I wrote about  
their passage yesterday. We hope to get them  
away next month. The subscription for  
them is now nearly a thousand rupees. Mr  
Parrell only came out of jail to be put in  
again on another indictment, and now  
I suppose he will be there for three or four  
years. He is a miserable instance of inability  
without character. Mrs Parrell is not a  
woman who can help herself very much.  
It will be a great thing for the children  
to get away and be properly managed.  
We have been getting some leather seats  
to sleep upon during the hot weather, instead  
of the usual mattresses. They are of fine  
plaited grass, and would be very nice at  
home for the fronts of dressing tables &c

See bedsteads we have used, & a ribbing  
laid across between the wooden and the  
mattress is laid upon this with only a sheet  
over it. I cannot fancy that for thin people  
it can be very comfortable, but I shall  
try it. John will be better off, as he has  
more flesh to cover his bones. - I was  
stopped here by Mr Harrison who came in  
to pay us his usual afternoon visit. I  
don't know what we shall do when he moves  
away next month to a house farther off.  
I dare say however, he will come pretty often  
even then. John is going to read at an  
entertainment next week for the benefit  
of the Railway Church. I hope I shall hear  
of you next letter that the photographs  
have arrived safely. I am sorry there  
was such a delay in getting them off. It  
was a good time of the year to send them  
as there would be no risk of their spoiling  
by rain. You will have a good idea when  
you see it, of what our home is like. It  
does not at all do justice to the garden  
however. It really looks very pretty  
now, the foliage of the trees is so fresh and  
green, though the heat now is rather spoiling  
our flower border. About three times a  
week we have a little game of lawn tennis,  
just four gentlemen, but sometimes we  
get quite an assemblage. Yesterday we  
expected four and a party of eleven  
turned. However as it is only a matter

of bringing out rather than and putting  
more tea in the pot, numbers are not  
much consequence. These little after-  
noon gatherings are really very pleasant  
I like them much better than leaving  
people to dinner. We have been doing  
very little in that way lately. I wonder what  
Mr. Harcourt will decide to do about  
leaving Birmingham. I shall be very  
sorry for your sets if he does leave, and  
so far as the boys are concerned, the ad-  
vantages seem to be equally balanced.  
Saturday your letters came yesterday, with  
two for John from Charles and Elizabeth. They  
do not seem yet to have decided upon another  
course. I hope they may be able to fix upon a  
locality which will suit all the children. At  
present it seems that Barnes suits the majority  
better than the others. I am very glad to hear  
that Mrs. Hinson is getting on so well. When  
I went away she said she should never see  
me again, but I hope she will be mistaken  
in that. Give my love to her. I gave Miss  
Hinson credit for a letter in the Spectator  
about a Ladies' College at Malvern. If Mr.  
and Mrs. Nutton are still at Malvern  
give my love to them. I should like much  
to see them again. It is a pity Miss Farnes  
does not think of coming back again.  
John sends his love to you and Mel, with  
many thanks for your letter. He is always  
very much interested about Harriet <sup>8065</sup> <sub>Wolfe's</sub> <sup>life</sup>  
as he, I hope soon to read it for ourselves.  
With love to you and Mel I am, your affectionate  
dear daughter

8065  
Newport Library  
77 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.