

The Hollis. May 6<sup>th</sup> / 84.

My dear Husband,

To my disgust, this letter was returned the other day. I think there must have been some want of attention, or I suppose your coming by Plymouth would make the difference. All that I sent seem to have misped. Remember me to Mr Carter and thank him for his letter and say I will see after the things and have them sent. Perry would order the book and send it to be packed with the desk from Hillis. I am glad you had such a pleasant Easter tide. We had a good day too. Flier and Mabel received their first communion then. Miss Andrus has done each of them a very pretty card and framed it in memory of the day. They do not want for mementoes of their confirmation. Mrs Beech has left us this evening she staid a week. She was very much affected at parting with Mamma, as in all probability it is the last

time she will see her. I have not the prospect of any more company at present, and that is a relief, as I have quite enough on my hands and mind now, and if my own health were to fail, it would be impossible for me to get away from home for rest or change. However it is a mercy that so far I keep well enough. Mamma is much the same, quite bright and cheerful and comfortable, but quite confined to her bed, except for an hour or so, when she sits up in the easy chair. She always sees your parallel Bible now. Mary <sup>letter</sup> went to London yesterday for a fortnight. Her chief purpose was to attend the Bondsworth meeting which this year is held at Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop being a member of the society. It is good for me that I can find all my content in my own home. I should be very glad to do all my social

work by proxy. I suppose the Bishop's niece is quite a young lady now. She was half and half when they were in Alleluia. I have not heard from Mrs Dally yet. Did you like her that dress I sent. It is a wonder she does not write. As for leaving this home, we must let a Disdow rise them down, arrange that for us. If we could take the home and garden away with us, I should not care where we went, but I shall much regret leaving them. Wherever I go now, my life will have to be lived within my own boundaries, for I have neither strength nor will to bustle about in society. The children are all well. Adrian will write next week as he returned letter comes with this. We are looking forward to the arrival of Mrs Colcutt's boxes. That is the same to me as balls and operas would be to a lady of fashion. Mamma sends love to you. She always likes to hear pieces from your letters. Wm good bye. Ever your loving &c.

0718

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I have sent the book and photograph  
to Mr Whitley. Noel has begun his  
swimming and drilling and seems  
much to enjoy both. This gives him  
physical exercise enough and then  
his love of gardening keeps him out  
fresh air without fatigue. He wants  
nothing more of us all sides to amuse the  
best of him. Madella began fencing