

5619

See Hollies. Malvern Inst. May 14
64.

My dear husband,

The children are very much impressed with your letter to William. I read it aloud to them all, last night. I hope they will read it again and again and profit by it. Mamma keeps much the same. I do not see that she catches up any strength, but she does not lose any, which is a great matter. For the last three days since the weather has been so warm she has been into the front bedroom for three or four hours in the morning. I had the sofa taken up out of the dressing-room and pillows arranged so that she can look out of the window as she lies. It is a little change for her, after being so long in the one room. She has to go very slowly up the four or five steps, holding my arm on one side and the rail on the other. I was very much afraid of even that little ascent doing her harm, but it does not seem to have done so. She is more likely to rest well in her own room than the air can be freshened during the day. I have written to Willie enclosing your letter and a cheque for £15. I did not understand that I was to send it, or it would have gone before, as

I have plenty in land now. We are so
interested in the little robin's nest close
to the dining room window. I think four
little birds have been hatched and the parent
one constantly flying to and fro with
food for them. It is a pretty sight. Noel
said to me very simply, one Friday
evening, as we were watching them -
Don't you think Mother, we may learn a
great deal from those little birds, they
are so patient and loving and watchful?
He seems to do very well at his lessons
now, and the drilling and swimming
are quite a delight. He has, one this after-
noon, being half holiday, to play cricket
at the school. Friday is Mabel's birthday
but she is going to keep it on Saturday,
when all the Joseph's and Newmatter and
Bobby Herbolt are coming. I hope it may
be warm enough for them to have tea in
the garden. Last year I remember they
had it there, and very happy they all
seemed to be. This morning the book
from Oenny's, Mabel's addresser, has
come. Lilian is busy over it now.
She is a good steady thoughtful girl,
but I do not think she will develop
much originality. Her mind will
collect facts, and be well stored in that

way. Miss Andrew says she works very well
at her lessons. And Mabel too, she says, is
doing better now. I have written to
Ernest again. I hope he will come and
see us at the end of July, when the children
will be having their holidays. You will be
sorry to hear of Mr. Harcourt's accident.
He trusted his foot when he was out on
the beach on Monday, and fell down
and sprained his ankle very seriously.
The doctor says it will be several weeks
before he is able to leave the house. This
is very unfortunate for him, for his
health is so dependent on out door
exercise. Mary Lettarian has just
been staying a week with them.
Last Sunday was Louis's birthday. All
the children wrote to him. I wrote to
Mary sweet and sweet, but have
heard nothing in reply. I wonder
how she is now. Althea never mentions
us. It is very sad for Tom. He seems
to have had but little rest in his mar-
ried life. We are beginning to look
for the arrival of the cases from Let-
tarian. I wish you could be here to see
the joy of the opening. It will be far
better to me than a month in London
amongst all the operas and theatres.

The very sight of the battered outsiders and
the worn labels does me good. I do hope
you have heard of that missing case. See
Miss Watson's note to say they had the
receipt for all the packages from the P. & O.
Company, and I think you must recover
it sooner or later. It would be a sad pity
to have it lost, with so many useful
things in it. When you come home we
must sort out the comparatively valuable
books and put them on the shelves in
the den and take the remaining room
for the rest. It must be called the study
then. Oh you will enjoy a summer
in your house. The garden is prettier
every year. I have such a feeling of perfect
peace and quiet as I walk about in it
now. If I have a "burst of energy" every
now and then, it is always spent upon
something in the house or garden, so that
there are results to be seen, and I live
such a quiet life as regards the outside
world that I can afford to turn on the
steam now and then at home. I have
nothing to complain of now in the
matter of health so long as I keep quiet.
Mamma sends much love to you.
I wonder if she will see you again in the flesh.
Ever lovingly
E.