

AL/2917 March 19th 1861.



22 Manchester Sq

Tuesday night

Dear Emily (affectionately)

There is no end of material for a long letter, with news & answering your last. We heard of the arrival of our Indian niece yesterday. Newson wrote in a great state of delight at its being safely over, & not at all vexed at its being a girl. Though they both wished for a boy. Kate & Miss Betty Sue (as he says she shall be called for having come instead of her brother, who had had the grand name "Vivyan Schuyler")

chosen for him) are going on very well. Betty was four days old when he wrote, and she had been out for the first airing with the ayah. She is more like Kate than Newson, having dark eyes & hair, he sends us a snip of the latter nearly an inch long. Did the Ballantynes come by the same mail? I was quite surprised to hear of Mr. Hugh Gray's recent death, I thought he ~~was~~ had died years ago. You are suffering again from my writing to you the last thing before going to bed. No, I am not working at all too hard, thank you; I have been & am more tired at night

than I used to be, but I think not going to Mr. Placitt in the middle of the day & not going so much into the wards are the causes. I study a good deal more & this would make a difference, even with the variety of subjects I have. Your physiology class will be very pleasant, I fancy, I am looking ^{forward} to my lecture on that subject. I think if you could get Dr. Bennett's "Outline of Physiology" from a library, you would like it. It has been my first text book, & Dr. Willis thinks very highly of his views & of his clear ways of expressing them. It is not a large book, nor expensive.

I am still using Dr. Willis's copy, if I had one of my own you should have had it, for I almost know it by heart now. With you give my love to Annie & thank you for her letter; I do not suppose The D. B. will be pleasant, but happily I shall not mind it so much as she would. I called on Mr. Nunn on Sunday to ask him to let me in there, he was as kind as usual & I think will smooth down all external hindrances. He had been talking to the Chemists about me, & had told them that "there could not be any more awkwardness in men & women working together than in their going to church together." He says a great deal has already been done towards removing prejudices; many of the doctors who

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were most confident that I should meet with unheard of insults from the Students, are now admitting that perhaps in some cases the experiment may be safely tried. I do myself see some justification for their objecting to open the School as freely to women as to men, for one flirting woman would make a woful deal of mischief & annoyance, & yet it is not possible to know what kind of people the applicants are till they have seen them pretty often. What would be your remedy against this risk? I am grieved to have to believe in its existence.

Mr. Plastitt brought me an invitation for the remaining Chemical lectures of this session, last Monday. Mr. Taylor seems disposed to be very civil, & wishes me not to think of paying any fee for the few remaining weeks, & also not to feel obliged to attend his elementary lectures when I enter as a student, if I think they are not needed. I should do so, however, for the sake of prizes, of course, and I shall never know so well, that intelligent lectures would come amiss. I fancy attending them without a good preliminary acquaintance with the

subject is very little use. Dr. Murchison was called away this morning, & during his absence, I had some talk with his clerk, a very fair sample I fancy, of the average standard of intelligence among the pupils. He said the chief good of lectures was to get "signed up" as to having attended them, and that ~~the~~ most of ^{my} students went to them without any previous reading, & consequently could not follow even the examples given in chemical symbols on the black board. We had a long argument as to ^{the} wisdom of making the "signing up" a more important thing than the knowledge it was supposed to imply, but he did

not show
any signs of coming round to my view
I expect to startle them all very much
to morrow by appearing in the lecture
room. I will leave this open to add a
postscript, that you may know how
it passed off. Mr Taylor lectures
every morning but Tuesday & Thursday
at 11^o A.M. so you can think of me.

I am almost inclined to take 10
days holiday towards the middle
of April, as I shall not have another
chance of going home till August.

I am sorry the vacations will never
match the school children, but I
must see as much of them as I can
here. My Father is not quite well, &
has been to a physician lately. I hope

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cont



it will not be much, if he takes care,
though my smattering, ~~now~~ tends to
make me more nervous about ill-
-ness ^{now} than I ever was before.

It is not easy to answer your question
about Miss Richardson's letter. I fancy
however, that she would not admit
that she reverts to the individual con-
-science above the question of absolute
right. I think, believing this to be
always the important question, she
can see no better guide to its answer
than the witness for the Right which
is with us all. I suppose this is one

of the clearest shades of difference
between Quakers & Churchmen, that
they identify the Spirit of God with the
conscience, which we believe to be the
witness of our relationship to God; not
keen nor strong enough to guide us to
a knowledge of Him (or Truth) except
as it is directed by His Spirit. This seems
to me to be the point of difference between
you & Miss Richardson, & the experience
of conscientious wrong doers in oneself
& others leads one distinctly from the
identification belief which I have assumed
to be the Quaker view. About Essays &

Reviews - Surely if pulling down error
can be done truly by those who cannot
see the truth, we ought to accept their
work, however melancholy it may
be to us. I have a kind of notion
that as in other pursuits &
sciences, knowledge of truth must
to some degree precede knowledge of
error; surely without a standard
it would be impossible to call any
thing untrue. And if it could be possi-
ble to fight against error with no
starting point or hold of truth, it
seems that a great deal more harm
than good would be done, as in
the case of pulling up the wheat with
the tares. I don't know anything

about the particular heresies of this
book, but it seems to me that people
would be all the better for enquiring
more into the nature of ^{the} inspiration
they profess to believe in, in the Bible,
& also that their real faith would ~~also~~
suffer by being separated from the blind
stand they make upon its verbal in-
tegrity, as if its power rested in that,
not in the message it brings us.

Wednesday. The lecture has gone off very
pleasantly. I went early to get a seat before
the students came in, & they only showed
their astonishment by an occasional grin
as they came in. The lecture was very interesting.
I have just been writing an abstract of it.
The Philharmonic was so jolly last Monday!
Yours affectionately
E. Farrer