

See Hollies. June ⁵⁶²⁵ 26th
84.

My dear Husband,

I have written to Applegard about the suits, and they will have them ready for you as soon as possible. Loring has sent me patterns for the waterproof. I think I had better have the one at £3. a good strong black till, which will be useful to you at home as well. I thought you would prefer a black one, and the only other black is so very slight. I will send the box off as soon as I get collections. I enclose a letter for H. Willis. It came a fortnight ago and I should have sent it then but I mislaid it. I have not heard again from Jones and Willis about the desk, but I hope it is on its way to Mr Carter. Major and Mrs Cotton and the little girl came to tea yesterday. It was a most lovely afternoon, and we spent most of the time in the garden, which they seemed to enjoy. The little girl was much interested in everything appertaining to Lih, Loh and Loe. She is a pretty, peaceful little creature. Philipper and Miss Johnson

are here for a week. Miss Johnson is a nice
simple girl. She plays and sings very beau-
tifully. She has just passed some examina-
tion which gives her a certificate from
the Royal Academy. She says she wishes
to have some employment, though there
is no money necessity for it, and I think
she is very sensible in qualifying herself
in this way. With a Royal Academy cer-
tificate she will always be able to get good
terms for pupils. I think Filian might
qualify herself in the same way. I
wish Mabel would show a little more
energy in her work. I do not really
think now it will be much more spend-
ing money over her education at
least not at present. Hopefully years
later she will awake to the value of study
and then she can have lessons again.
She is very much like what I see at
Worcester, but I think I am more sensi-
tive to rebuke. Things don't sink into
Mabel much. Filian wastes good
use of all her opportunities and I think
money should not be squandered over
her. She should have a year on the

Continent for languages, and then
good instruction in music at home.
She has a good capacity for taking in,
though she has no originality. Mrs. Mabel
is very slow at taking in, but I have
hope that when she is older she will
develop originality. Noel writes well
at school. He goes now to prepare his
evening lessons there, as he can have
the help of the masters. Mrs. Douglas said
it would be much better for him to do
so. He seems always cheerful and in
good spirits about his lessons now.
What a pity you just missed seeing the
rhododendrons, and had no view
either. But any way the little rest from
work would be good for you. I hope you
will get well through the due lot weather
left for you in the plains, and then, if
God will, we shall have good times at home.
Seeing that I am not to have the desire
of my heart in visiting Switzerland again,
I mean when opportunity serves, to take
a good long spell at some one place in
Switzerland, some place where I can sit in
the verandah and look out upon an ex-
panse of snow. Major Cotton says there is
such a place some two or three thousand

feet above Zermatt, and people who cannot climb, may be carried up in a chair. There is also a good hotel, and I would go at some time out of the tourist season. Now since I cannot see India again, I will take my fill of Venice and Florence. Of travelling, in the ordinary sense of the word, I am now incapable, but to stay leisurely and soak in the beauty of noble surroundings, I have still a longing, and I ought someday to be able to satisfy it, as Letitia is doing now. But then I remember that between me and any such resting and seeing as this, must stretch the shadow of my mother's death, I would put it as far from me as possible. I cannot leave home with any peace during her lifetime, or whilst the children are young. Mr West is coming next week for two or three days. I shall get some choice music and conversation then. I wrote to Lady Stuart a few days ago, and had a pleasant letter from her. She said she meant to write to you before she left India, but could not find time. They intend to settle in London. Mamma sends her love to you. Philippe her respectful regards. Ever your loving &c