

Allahabad. 9

5553

Your care of
the children
I am full of delight
Eliza

Dear Madam

We were both of us very much interested in your account of the children. I hope you would not find them too much for your strength and that Ann's sister would be all the time with you to help to take care of them. Mabel must be an interesting little creature, and I am particularly glad to know there is so much of the child about her. I hope she will keep that characteristic a long time. I have had always more of the little woman about her, but she seems very thoughtful and helpful. Aletta says they are neither of them very practical but from your account William seems to be quite so. I look forward very much to having them with me when I come home and learning to know them well. Mabel has always been remarkable for her love of flowers. I remember on the common at Barnes how she used to bring handfuls of them. Her dealings with her dolls are very comical. Another portrait of Nell came by last mail. I like it better, it is a profile and much smaller. Will you say to Mrs. White how much we both of us thank her for her kindness to the children.

On Friday we had a heavy fall of rain which has cooled the air very pleasantly, the heat for a week or two before had really been almost unbearable everybody was complaining of it, I don't know yet whether the monsoon has quite broken, but we have got a little relief and that is something. I had the sewing class again yesterday, it had been closed for five weeks in consequence of the heat. "Dear, Ma'am, isn't thin you look" was the remark of several of the women. I think people in India, if they don't get fat, do get thin, and that is the most comfortable extreme of the two. I am sure I have been drinking enough lately to make me stout, if that could do any good. I had not heard of Mr Beet's man leaving. What a very tender skin this Mr Watson must have, that he cannot bear a poor woman to tell him what she thinks, without feeling his smart of turning her out of her house. I am very glad Aunt Susan has taken it up, and I hope he will be as thin skinned in one direction as the other. I should think it is the first time such a thing as that has been done in Thorney. I thought about them all at Thorney on Aunt Beet's birthday, they must have had a very pleasant time altogether. I am sure Mrs Laywell would enjoy it. She is so fond of farm life and all sorts of country pleasures. Her loon gone too. Nelly has been suffering from the heat like all the rest of us. She has had

had fever for the last week and her poor little body is as hot as a furnace. She has been taking quinine for it, "like a Christian". That reminds me of something Mrs Saunders told me the other day. She had a nurse, who afterwards applied for a situation as matron at a Calcutta hospital and was refused on account of her being partial to brandy. Whereupon she wrote to Mrs Saunders for a testimonial as to her sobriety, and said - "You, Ma'am as I lived with, know I can just swallow a little, but not to say drink it." It was such an elegant distinction. I see good deal of Mrs Saunders now, she is always very pleasant and merry with the usual Irish humour about her. We had Mrs Lambert again for a day after I wrote to you last, with the children, and next Tuesday we expect Mr Ferguson from Bencares, to stay until Thursday. I like him very much, he is so entirely gentlemanly, and very well read too, though as a preacher he does not impress one at all favourably. I see one of his sisters in law has been bridesmaid at the marriage of Sir Thomas Tennant's daughter. He is bringing me some more of that Agincourt pottery. I shall soon have quite a stock of it. Mrs Plender, who despises it very much, says she will give me all her silver she goes away next year. I hope that

will be before I <sup>Fawcett Library
25 Wilton Street
London S.W.1.</sup> ~~over~~ ⁸⁰⁷⁵ too. He has numbers
of pieces of it, bases and pegs of different
shapes to any I have seen before. Mr
Wray is a stonemason, he is
coming for the opening of a new Lodge here.
Mr Eddy the military chaplain, is still away
and John and Mr Watkins have to take
his work between them; but Mr Watkins
is down with fever now and can do very
little. John had a service at the Port on
Sunday morning at a quarter before six,
and then came back three miles to the
church here for his own service at seven.
Then he had breakfast and immediately
started for his service at the hospital
so he does not get much rest. I had a
letter from Mr Newman by this mail
saying that my book was to be published
about the second week in this month.
He said he should send me two copies
by the parcel post, and if I wanted more
I should be very welcome to them, but
he did not say anything about sending
one to you, so I have enclosed a note
for him in this asking him to send
me a copy at once. I should like you to
have a set of them all. I am getting on
with another now, when the heat will
allow of any writing at all. John sends
his love. He is much obliged to you for