

AL/2929
Aldeburgh

August 21st 1861

My dear Emily You will be
almost as surprised & pleased
as I am to hear that the
Apothecaries are willing to
Examine me if I will go through
the 5 years apprenticeship & the
usual routine of lectures &c.
Their decision reached me yester-
day, & was welcomed with
a 'hurrah' & congratulations
all round the table. I have

written to tell Mr. Mackitt, & when
my Father is in London he must
settle the apprenticeship question
with him. I do not think it is
necessary to wait till I am sure
of being able to enter a school
as if this should prove to be
impossible. The indentures will
bind me in no way, & if I
can use them, the sooner they
are signed, the better. The answer
also came from Dr. Day by the
same post. I had written to
Dr. Chapman telling him what
I wanted & asking his advice as

to which University I should apply
to, & saying I had thought of
St. Andrews. He sent this to Dr. Day
& the letter yesterday was to Dr.
Chapman. Dr. Day says he sees no
reason why I should not ~~take~~
take a degree from their University
but that the question will rest with
the Council, & he will not be
able to submit it to them till
they meet in November. He begs
Dr. C. to assure me of his best support
& he suggests how I must direct my
course of study to meet the require-
ments of the University. Dr. C. says
he is a most influential man

so that it is at least encouraging
to have him as an ally. There was
a most disagreeable & vulgar article
(quite editorial too) in The Lancet
of the 3rd Inst. and the same No.
had a paragraph announcing that
"Miss Garrett's request to be admitted
into the Bond. Hoop. had been unanim^{ously}
ly declined by the Lecturers." As the
Lancet writers are evidently anxious
to provoke talk about it, & thus
to increase the weight of their opposi-
tion, I think it will be best to
make no more attempts in London
at present. This winter can be
very well spent in private work,
both upon Greek & for the Matriculation
either at the London or St Andrews

University and ~~to~~ upon ^{AL 12929} Chemistry &c
by attending the lectures at the School
of Mines. I am not quite sure how
far the St Andrews Univ. Educates
for the medical degree, but as one
year's residence is compulsory there
must be some lectures &c there. The
M. D. diploma there ranks higher
than that of any other Scotch body
except Edinburgh. I shall get a
copy of the regulations, & send with
it & the winter prospectus of the
lectures to be given in Germany. It
I shall be able to mark out enough
work for six months. Like you I
feel up to doing a great deal now,
but unlike you I have done very
little. We have rather a large party

in the house and it does not seem
friendly to absent oneself too much,
especially as Alice has a good deal
of housekeeping to do & wants time
for study as much as I do. I am
more than ever glad for her sake
that I moved off. Though the very
fact of her having reaped the benefit
of it & grown into my old place
so well & thoroughly makes any
notion of coming back to permanent
residence here out of the question. I
do not think it is quite true that a
profession would not separate daughters
from their families more than marriage
does. In my case I fancy the separation
is more distinctly felt now, after
one year, than it is with some

after four years. I think a profession
especially when it is connected with
a certain amount of difficulty & social
prejudice, brings a woman into an
entirely new set of interests &
friends, neither of which is known
to her own family, while the life
of a married daughter is to a
great extent a kind of ~~the~~ repetition
of the mother's early experiences.
Of course this has no great weight
against the advantage of having a
profession, but I think it is the fact.
I think too that being really interested
in something & having worked at them
does not aid one to be useful &
agreeable in ordinary society. We have
been having pic. nics and other social

Sports lately & I have been pained to find how unready I was with small talk & the gaiety that men desire in women. Perhaps other people did not notice it so much as I did, but I felt stupid among people whom I cannot help knowing are superior to me in most mental things. When one has been interested it is hard to seem so over perfectly uninteresting small talk; the fact of being in a delightful atmosphere is enough to make one very placid & content to be still, but this is half spoiled by being obliged to pretend to enjoy stupid nonentities. This sounds very ill-natured, but in truth I am puzzled about it, it seems as if knowing better things ought to raise oneself enough to make one

capable of raising ^{copy} others or (at least
drawing their most interesting side
out, though in reality it only seems
able to make one slightly discontented
with other people + yourself + longing
for the higher kind of thing. The people
you met at Acton are of the sort I mean,
there must have been interesting points
in them, + yet knowing the Dever
Miss Smith + Mr. Ballantyne would
only help to make one weary with
their flat dulness. I have enjoyed
some of the out-of-doors life we have
led lately very much, but with an
uncomfortable feeling that the
people had very little to do with it,
except some few whom I liked to
watch more than to talk to. Alice
does not feel this, and as she

will probably have no better society
for some time, it may be well she
does not. It would be an element
of discontent to me. Alice surprises
me by her ability to get on with
stupid people, they come out to her
more than to me, & she is a general
favorite, though I am sure she would
enjoy better people as keenly as I do.
I am very glad Miss Fedden enjoyed
her trip to Norway & that you like
her sister-in-law. I was glad to
hear of Miss Bleck's departure, she
did not take my fancy. The parents
are coming home now, they expected
to reach Folkestone tomorrow when
they last wrote & home on Saturday
but I think they will very likely

meet some delay so that they spend
Sunday in London. They seem to be en-
joying themselves very satisfactorily.
Mr. William Bampf is staying with
us, and Rose, our clerical cousin.
I like the latter very much, though
she is idle & not likely to shine
very much even if she could get
to Germany. Alice & I encourage
her to peg away at the Grammar
& fortify her mind with arguments.
It is such a shame to keep her
idle now, when there will be nothing
for her to live upon if when her father
dies. He has a small living & a young
wife & family besides Rose & two sons
by his first wife. I think her case a
very strong & clear one, though from

her native indolence she will not have
very much chance of excelling even
with every advantage. She was very
much prejudiced against me before
she came here, but has come round
completely since, & insists on calling
me 'Doctor' under an impression
that it is the title I love. I am very
glad to know that Mr Ballantyne
cordially approves of the doctresses,
a few thoughtful people outweigh
crowds of the other kind. It gives me
a sense of security to know that
John S. Mill is so decided on our side.
How did Jane like Dublin & the meeting?
& how is she? There has not been so
much in the Times this year I think.
I enjoyed the 2nd vol of Mill's Essays
so much. Yours affectionately
E. Barrett