

1860

Oct. 23^d. 58 5th Dudley St

Tuesday night

My dear Emily

AL/2910

I shall put physiology & chemistry
 away to night for the pleasure of answering
 your letter. Thanks for it, you seem to be flourishing
 delightfully, I think. I shall be very glad to hear
 how the meeting has gone off. I cannot fancy
 Annie proposing a resolution. Your advice about
 Dr. Willis has come too late to take any but a ne-
 -gative effect. The last night that I sat up at the
 Hospital, he asked me if he could be of any use
 as a tutor, he should be able to spare some time
 during this winter and he thought I should never
 get on safely alone. He thinks teaching now in
 practical chemistry & anatomy with medicine all
 future work alone dear & pleasant. He offered
 to come to my house three nights a week, for 2
 hours, & the terms would be a guinea a week.
 Though I had been thinking of asking him to do this,
 it was somewhat perplexing to have to decide if it
 would really be right & wise. I felt sure about its
 being a great help to me, & except in some few things,
 a very pleasant way of being taught, as he has a
 clear method of explaining & does look at things
 in the professional, unawkward way. On the other
 hand there was one's reputation & the chance of losing

any thing in this direction. I thought the whole thing
over during that night, and wrote to my father for
his views. Miss Smith & Miss Blythe called the next
morning, to my great enjoyment. I told them of the
proposal, & though Miss Smith saw the difficulties
she was in favour of risking these for the sake of the
teaching. My parents & Louie took the same view,
so I have accepted the offer, & as soon as we go to
March² 18th the lessons will begin. I am not nervous
about Dr. Willis himself, and I believe he sees the
difficulties of my position & would be cautious not to
add to them by seeming on friendly or intimate
terms with me. Still I do not wish to suggest by my
manner that it is impossible to me to forget sex
& be cordial & natural, this is what ought to be the
tone between men & women, and as far as one can
& with safe people, it should be realized now I think.
The vulgarity of other people is the difficulty, it is so
impossible to forget that to many, simple & honest actions
will seem wonderful and wrong. I consider my en-
-gagement with Mr. Plaskett is some safe guard in
this respect, it looks well to be taught by several
doctors at once, & the sisters & nurses will know of
this even more surely than they will of Dr. Willis' lessons.
Mr. Plaskett is young, but so very quiet & unflippant
that no one would say any thing in connection with
him, & he will serve as a shield I hope. Mrs. Garrison

is essentially vulgar, and I fear she will misconstrue
it, but I shall guard against it as much as possible
by speaking frankly to her of the real hesitation I
have had about it, and of my parents' & Mr. Mum-
sanction, which have satisfied me & will do so with
her I hope. What Dr. Willis will do for me is the early
drudgery that Mr. Mum could not undertake,
as it will take a great deal of time. Your advice
will make me more than ever cautious, though I
cannot act positively upon it. My father is very
kind & liberal, now that I have started he wishes
me to spare no expense & to make any arrangements
I may think best. He thinks Dr. Willis' charge very
little. I am glad you liked the notes of the sermon.
I shall try to write some always. The sermon was very
fine last Sunday, and very easy to remember. I don't
write a great deal now, if it did not take so much
time. Certainly I am not game for writing for the
cause, thank you Secretary. I am always wanting
more time now, and I cannot see that I waste
much. Mr. Plaskett expects me to know a great
deal more than I do & makes me parse Latin to
him whenever there is a stiff piece in the ~~Phar~~ Pharma-
copoeia. I made some pills & plaisters this morning
& some rose water decoction. I wear apron & sleeves
of white sheeting linen. Mr. Plaskett came down
for me this morning, while I was spreading plaisters

in the cellar, under the direction of his man William
& asked me to come & see some patients he was about
to examine. He could not wait for clean hands so
up we went in my bedaubed state. The patients
looked so amused & puzzled. They evidently thought
I had been cooking, and why I should have the pres-
cription & symptoms explained to me was a gr-
mystery. I enjoy the society and life of my work very
much, especially now I feel friendly towards all
the resident doctors. Gen. Ludlow & Miss Smith met
me after church last Sunday & I went home with
them. It was very pleasant. Miss Smith & Mrs. Ludlow
with looked most beautiful, & I had more conver-
sation with the former than ever before. We went
to call on Miss Bostock after lunch, a friend of Miss
Smith's who wished to be introduced to me. She is ~~the~~
middle aged, and has very kind quiet manners.
I enjoyed hearing them talk about Darwin's book
& Nile & a good many other interesting subjects. It
is extremely delightful to be with Miss Smith, I don't
know how much Miss Bostock contributed to my
enjoyment. She will call upon me, & I shall be glad
to know her, friends are doubly welcome now, & I
feel inclined to widen my acquaintance to find them.
I am going to write to Miss Smith occasionally. Louie
goes to Aldeburgh tomorrow for the children & we shall
be settled in the new house next week. Love to Jane & An-
gela affectionately, E. Carver