

5646
See Notice No. 19th / 84.

My dear Husband,

Your letter yesterday, with its news of the possibility of your home coming being delayed by this awful scourge of Rangoon, was a great surprise. I have not said anything to the children about it. There will be loud outcries of disappointment from them if the arrangement should come to pass, for they cannot see so plainly as their mothers, what benefits may in the end be connected with it. For myself, I do not feel that I can say anything either for or against. You must follow what you feel to be the call of duty, whether to bow down or to rise. If you do, the greatest drawback to me, appears your not being able to influence Mad at the beginning of his public school life, and to appear yourself in any of the arrangements for it. It is a great responsibility for me. On the other hand I can quite see that the year and half in such a position would be a great advantage to you on your final home coming, and if you feel that your health will stand the climate and the work, it does not seem that we ought to let our own personal

decide the matter. It is a great taking to
pieces of our infirmity. He had looked for-
ward so confidently to your being here
next year at this time. To delay it by a
year and a half seems a great come
down from our anticipations. I shall
wait impatiently for next week's letter
in which you may be able to tell me
in matters seem to be going. It is curious
that this offer should have been made
to you a second time. If you should do,
it will be far pleasanter to have your
old friend as bishop. By the time this
reaches you, I suppose your decision
must have been made so I can only
hope that whid ever way it takes, it
may be for the best. The great thing is, to
be sure that self is not at the bottom
of any step that is taken. If you do so,
I shall bring all my philosophy to bear
upon the prolonged absence, and try
to believe that it will end in good for
us all. I had a most clear feeling
last time you were asked to go to Kangaroo
that it would not be a good move. But
many things are different this time,
your own health is better, and the ending
of your service is so much nearer,

and you could at any time lay down the
work if it were necessary. Well, God will
all. I will try to make the best of what ever
comes. By the same mail as yours
came a long letter from Mrs Keown.
Her dad I was to hear from her again.
She seems to have had much work and
many cares, but what a steadfast courage
through all. Yesterday I had a letter from
Mrs Whitley. She writes from London,
but says she expects some time during
the winter, to be staying with friends at
Cheltenham and Evesham and would
like to see the children. So I shall write
and ask her to come over then. I have
also had a kind note from the Dean of
Westminster, regretting that his nomi-
nation is disposed of. I have written to the
Bursar to ask what is the latest date at
which a nomination for Noel would
serve. Perhaps Canon Oucton will send
you on his way next year. Good Mrs
Dalby has sent the children a box of
turtle's eggs, and me a silver ring of Indian
work. Noel is delighted. There are sixteen
of them. He is going to give two or three
away, and two or three he will keep
for birds' eggs next year. The turtle's eggs

are great curiosities, here. I am enclosing
a note for Mrs. Dalby, will you send it on
to her. I am also sending some Christmas
man cards for you and Mr. Carter.
I think I will send them separately.
On second thoughts I will send Mrs.
Dalby's letter by itself, and then I can
put a card in for her. Major and Mrs.
Cotton and Edith are coming to tea
on Friday. Mrs. Cotton visited Eliam and
Ned to see her to dine, but Eliam has
no time to spare. They are going out this
afternoon with Mrs. Bears, and they had
to prepare their lessons yesterday. Philippe
is here. Eliam is learning French. He
to do a new kind of fancy work. Carrie
Zelbe is here too. He is reading Italian
history to us and we enjoy it very much.
My employment now is knitting a
quilt. Three pretty volumes have arrived
this morning for the children from Mr.
West. It is very kind of him. Mamma
keeps nicely, and all goes on as usual
in the house. I have sent Mrs. Brouthead
one of the family groups. Mr. Solall
look out for your letter next week, though
it may not have your final decision.
Ever your loving
E. J.