

A-2918 March 23^d 1861.



22 Manchester Sq.

Saturday night

My dear Emily

Thanks for your letter; I wish you were at hand to hear all the details I could give you of my widening hospital work. There is constantly some small advance being made, either in friendliness toward some one, or new openings for study. I have felt very much set up this week, as to the enjoyment I shall have in the student life when it really begins. The lectures are exceedingly interesting, and by taking short notes at the time & writing summaries from these afterwards

I can remember them as well as the
working students. We are examined
every Saturday on the subjects gone over
in the week, Mr. Taylor asking questions
& any one answering them unless he
asks some one specially. Last Saturday
I tried to speak, but really could not -
it reminded me of the embarrassing
Bible Class you took me to once. Mr.
Plaskitt advised me to get over this
as soon as possible, & show at once that
I felt like a ^{ordinary} general student, so to-day
I answered the first question Mr. Taylor
asked & a good many more. The men
(They are always 'men' not 'students')

are very courteous & respectful, and
I feel sure the chances of meeting with
any annoyances from them would
grow less & less with every increase
of acquaintance. I sit next one who
seems above the rest, both in age &
education, he has been to Cambridge;
he & 4 or 5 more are attentive & take
notes, but the rest are amazingly
ignorant. Mr. Taylor put some very
elementary questions to one of the dunces
to-day, & his answers tried the gravity
of all the more knowing ones very much.
They were several times too much even
for Mr. Taylor. I am glad you are
reading Forones, you will probably find

it more interesting as you go on.
I think for intelligent students it is
a good thing to begin with the chapters
on "Chemical Philosophy" - you will
find them some ~~few~~ 100 pages from the
beginning. They are very interesting &
throw a new attraction over all the
preceding details. I think too that
the principles of Chemistry are more
simply explained in these, than in any
book I have seen. Though Fowles does
not strike me as a clear or easy book
of practical guidance. I have used
Wilson's (Chamber's Educational Course)
and except for the Philosophy, it was
~~more~~ much easier than Fowles. Mr
Taylor has lent me Regnault's *Annales
de la Chimie*, 4 vols in French, but

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it is much easier than the Review &
There is some satisfaction in reading
science in a foreign tongue. The enforced
slowness is good & helps one to remem-
ber. To-day after lecture I stayed
nearly an hour with Mr. Taylor, watching
some microscopic things & talking. He
is very kind & pleasant, & strikes me
as being a good & humble man.

I am sorry to say so much about myself
but you will be glad to hear the arrange-
of all has been entered. The dissecting
room. Mr. Nunn took me in on Tuesday
& it was not nearly so shocking as
I had been led to expect. The reports

have been gross exaggerations. There were no bodies hanging over chairs or by their feet from the ceiling, nor any of ^{the} other horrors that had been painted to me. The subjects do not look like human things at all, at first sight, & there is no needless annoyance in any way. There are a good many small tables, & those at which students are not then working are neatly covered with a piece of calico, & this makes the aspect of the room much less trying than it would be if a great many things were visible. I don't think it will be at all overpowering to work there, one can have a table facing a window & with one's

back to the rest of the students if you like, & the work itself is far from being uninteresting or difficult. I have been dissecting a little in my room & with Mr. Plaskitt, to learn the manipulation before going into the D. R. I think all these details will not suit Annie's nerves, I tell you that you may know what the worst difficulties really are, in case you should find any one anxious to join in the work. I don't feel very anxious for a companion, nor am I at all sure that the authorities would be as civil to two as they are to one. Still a very nice companion would be a great enjoyment & help. The loneliness (as far as free intercourse goes) is considerable & rather trying. I shall feel it much

more when Mr. Plastite has left. Did I tell you I was going home for 10 days towards the end of April. I fully agree with all you say about the necessity of keeping well. My slow brain will stand a great deal of work without getting overdone, but I will be very judicious.

Jane is so well just now - she is quite merry. Miss Blythe came with her to tea with me last Monday, en route for the concert; they were so gay & pleasant & made me feel very grave & stupid in comparison, but it was one of my tired nights. Are you satisfied with The Principles you can learn without any knowledge of the kindred sciences - anatomy & chemistry. I seemed to want them all at once when I first began. I don't think there was any very decided cause for my decision

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to leave home. I wanted something definite & worthy to do, & there being so many girls was an external inducement - This, & a general consideration of the question ~~are~~ were the only things ~~wh~~ led me up to the point. The choice of medicine was to a great extent made for me; while I was hesitating & wondering what would suit, my Father got me introduced to Miss Blackwell & she assumed that I had made up my mind to follow her. I remember feeling very much confounded & as if I had been suddenly thrust into work that was too big for me, while talking

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& listening to her that evening at
Blandford Spa.

I am going to do the loyal thing by
the Duchess ^{of Kent} - at my Father's request
however - I did not dream of going
into mourning till he asked me to do so.
He is better, & I hope there will be more
improvement as the winter work ceases
& he gets more rest. We are going to have
quite a fathering here at Easter, as
he & Mother - Alice & Edmund & Sam
are coming up to Mrs. Bugg's wedding,
& Agnes & Milly will be here from School.
Yours very affectionately
E. Carrete