

Malvern. Decr 27<sup>th</sup>/80.

My dear dear husband,

I was going to give you the history of our happy Christmas Day, but Lillian has given you such a good account that there is no need for me to say anything. Your letter came just the day before, so I left back the one for the children, and it occupied the place of honour in the middle of the table on the top of a splendid pile of fruit, out of our own garden which was decorated with ivy and leaped on the Carlisberg stand. The table did look so pretty. I had all the Christmas cards arranged upon it, and I did it first thing in the morning so that the children might have it as a welcome on coming down stairs. I believe it was a very happy day to every one, Estlin and Emma included, who were not forgotten in the general gift. Emma had her little girl to spend the day with her, and the children gave her a box of tea things, the first Christmas present she had ever had. I went to bed very tired, but feeling that I had done a good days work in making other people comfortable. In distributed mince

pies, apples, muffins and comforts,  
the day before. Mr B. and Miss White  
came to dine with us, and at night  
Mr B. read the children a story. Mamma  
is better, though still confined to her  
room. She gets up her strength very  
slowly. The children had cards from  
all their Aletta cousins, but I am  
surprised that not a single remem-  
brance has come to any of us from  
Tom, Mary or Frank, though both  
the children and myself sent either  
a little present or card to all of them.  
I only tell you this that you may have  
the want of attention is not on our side.  
Oh we did wish for you and think of  
you. I hope you had a happy day, I am  
sure your thoughts would be with us,  
as ours were with you. Grand Mrs  
Walter sent the children cards, and  
so did Mrs Brownhead. We must have  
had about 60 altogether. The dining table  
and mantelshelf costed quite gay with  
them. Mrs to business. Please send me  
some money as soon as you can. Re-  
member I have not had any since  
the first week in October, when you gave  
me the £40. I have the first balance of the

two £10 notes which came a fortnight  
ago, but they are no use until I have  
the second. I have had to spend the £35  
which I got from Macmillan. I think  
we ought to be able to invest all moneys,  
which come in in this way as well  
as your bank dividends and a good  
part of mine. If I had £30 a month  
regularly from you, I could manage it  
cover our expenses with the £50 which  
Mamma pays me. I wish you would  
send it as regularly as you can, but there  
is never any need to send more as  
I am sure you need the rest to make  
you comfortable out there. When I  
have paid the rent in a few days, I shall  
have about 12£ to go on with. The school  
for the three children costs now £40 a year.  
I paid Miss White her master's account  
at once, as I thought she might perhaps  
need the money. I believe she teaches the  
children very well. Candor and Mrs Joseph  
ask after you and send their kind re-  
membrances. So do Mr Dawson and  
Dr Rogers. I wonder where you would spend  
your Christmas Day. You would be sure  
to have some invitations. Mr Keon is  
coming back soon, is he not. I will  
leave this now until I get your letter.  
I hope it will come this week before mail  
time, it was late last week.

I think you will be glad to see this statement  
of our expenses which I have just made up.  
The general expenses of £148 include all our  
travelling during that time when we were paying  
our farewell visits to North and everything  
else which does not come under the other  
heads. I had a balance in the bank to begin  
with. Of course the Italian trip is an extra  
which will not come again, so that deducting  
that our expenses are well under £400!  
If you send me the £30 a month regularly  
we shall be able to save and invest both  
your dividends and mine, which will be  
a great matter.

Will you look in your Badeter for North  
Italy and find out in Venice, what are  
the names of the four saints in Bellini's  
celebrated picture of the Madonna in  
the church of San Salaria. Please let me  
know by return, as I want the information  
for my book.

Tuesday. I must not wait for your letter  
as we have to post early, in consequence of  
his year's day. Our thoughts will be with  
you at the closing of the year. What a great  
deal of happiness it has brought us, and I  
hope you will have strength and courage  
for all your work in the one to come. I  
can imagine how lonely you often feel in  
heart if not in life. But it is all done its  
work for you, like St. Basil's three years in  
the wilderness. May God spare us until we  
all have a home in England together.  
Your loving wife E.P.

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Thursday. I had both your letters yesterday  
and the newspapers, as it was a favourable  
boat. I hope your cold would clear away be-  
fore Christmas day, so that you would be  
able to go through your work comfortably,  
and Sunday evening next day would be rather  
trying. Do take care of yourself, for all our sakes.  
All our friends here make many enquiries  
after you. See accounts of the meeting, are very  
interesting to me. I sent one paper to Holtson and  
I posted the letter to Lady Taylor. I received the  
balance of the four £5 notes all right. As I have the  
£20 you sent before, I have a good store for the pre-  
sent. He ought to be able to keep both the old, on  
your pay, and then save all the rest for when the  
expenses of the children will be heavier. Please  
send me the information about that picture  
of Bellini's, and the following. I put them  
here in order.

Bellini's picture in San Jacaria. Who are the  
four saints with the Madonna.

What is the name of the island in Venice where  
the English cemetery is situated. Is it ex-  
clusively English or general.

The name of the leading hotel in Venice

You will get it all from Badeter. I want the  
information for the story I am writing. I have  
now finished the pencil copy, and after the  
children return to school, I shall begin  
writing it out for the press. My mamma is nearly  
well again so that my time will not be oc-  
cupied with her. The children are in great  
delight about their little nest on Saturday  
next. They look so pretty in their dresses.

Now I wish you were here to see it. And indeed  
for much more than that. All that you say

You say of your longing for us to be together  
finds a true response in my heart. May  
God spare us both until that happy time.  
I do — Have the post come, with letters  
from Florence, and now I forget what I was  
going to say. I wish you could see how I  
love your portrait before he goes to bed — Oh, I was  
going to say that I do not think you ought to  
be discouraged because the outward results of  
your work in Allahabad are not what you  
would like. You never know what God is working  
secretly, nor how long God may be hidden  
before it comes to the surface. And one thing  
I am quite sure of, that God's earnest work like  
yours, into which you put your whole heart,  
will never come back to you empty. You  
have God's own promise for that.  
My story is another novel, but it has far more  
depth in it than Dimplethorpe and I think  
you will like it very much. And now I  
must end with much love to you from my  
all and a close warm wife's kiss from your  
Daughter for the information about "Stumble"  
I wanted it myself. For my book.

Expenditure for 180.

Governor	34	"	"	0	0
Meat	70	"	"	"	"
Notes	8	"	2	"	6
Coal	15	"	0	"	0
Cars	3	"	10	"	0
Traces	24	"	0	"	0
Washing	9	"	0	"	2
Procer	24	"	5	"	0
Butcher	34	"	9	"	0
Baker	7	"	5	"	0
Milk	8	"	8	"	0
Paid towards expension Ital,	28	"	0	"	0
General ex- penses, in- cluding fine also travelling, dresp De Gills.	148	"	10	"	4
<u>Total</u>	<u>414</u>	"	<u>10</u>	"	<u>4</u>

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Receipts from John

Bank	25	"	0	"	0
Jan. from J	30	"	0	"	0
Feb. do	20	"	0	"	0
March do	20	"	0	"	0
Apr. from J	27	"	10	"	0
do July	19	"	0	"	0
do August	15	"	0	"	0
of cash. Out.	40	"	0	"	0
<u>Total from J</u>	<u>195</u>	"	<u>10</u>	"	<u>0</u>
My dividends.	5	"	0	"	0
April	59	"	16	"	9
do. Sept.	65	"	10	"	10
Mamma	50	"	0	"	0
Macmillan	35	"		"	
<u>Total receipts</u>	<u>406</u>	"	<u>17</u>	"	<u>5</u>