

See Hollies.

5648

Decr 18<sup>th</sup> / 84.

My dear Husband,

I have had an  
anxious time since I wrote to  
you last week, for Mamma's  
health has broken down so sud-  
denly. The change began last  
Friday, from no cause that we  
can ascertain. It was so marked  
that she herself thought it was an  
attack of paralysis, and so did  
I, but Dr. Hauges says it is not  
that at all, but proceeds entirely  
from the heart. Her sight on the  
right side is quite dim, and  
she has almost lost her memory  
for names, though her reason  
is perfectly calm and clear.  
See sends her love to you, and  
says I am to thank you for all

your love and kindness to her. We can daily expect the end, though her life may be prolonged for awhile. I sleep in her room and am with her constantly. Mr. B. spends most of the days here, and is most kind to the children. It is unfortunate that this accession of anxiety should have come just now, as this is the week of Hilian's Cambridge Exam. Mamma is very anxious to be spared to the end of that, as she says it would be such a disappointment to Hilian not to be able to go through with it. Noel too is busy with his school exams, and altogether it is a busy week. I manage very well. The children are as good as ever

be, and Esther and Agnes vie with each other in being kind and helpful. Mamma and I have had some beautiful talks. No life of patient duty could close with more calmness and dignity. I do not tell the children that the end is so near, for I do not want to lay any burden upon them, but you will know how full of sadness my heart often is. If you were here, you would put your arms round me and comfort me. But there is no bitterness in this sorrow. It is the necessary fulfilment of God's will. I more and more feel that to souls who love and trust, death is only an outsward separation.

And though we, who are on this  
side of the boundary, are shut  
out by our bodily wrappings, from  
the realisation of spiritual  
presences, still they are round  
us as truly as though we could  
touch and see. Years ago, before  
I went to India, I prayed with  
all my heart, that if it was God's  
will, He would visit me to  
reatch me and brighten my  
mother's last years. He has  
beautifully answered that  
prayer, and now I will not  
murmur over what is near.

I will send your letter to  
Ernest today. Elian goes on  
well with his exam, and is  
dearful about it. Noel is very  
full of interest in his work.

Ever your loving Ep.