

14. Palace Gardens Terrace
March 5. 79.



AL/3686

My dear little Nelly

Do not chafe, please, at my apostro-
phising you thus affectionately, since
I do it in strict privacy only and
meaning no affront whatsoever to
your dignity — well, in the first
place thank you very much for your
letter, which, in spite of its ranting
style, gave me great pleasure. I
was longing to hear from you for
some time and always expected to
do so — The reason why I cannot
tell — without making a beginning
myself. However I had just intended
to pen an epistle to you, when
yours arrived just in time to make

we lose the credit of my good intentions
I declare the character of your hand-
writing is so changed with your new
dignity, that at first I did not know
it — I should have credited you
with more steadiness of mind!

Your writing certainly does not
show any character, but, Proteus-
like, assumes all shapes and keeps
none. After the somewhat abusive
style of your own letter, I hope you
will excuse these passing remarks on
what you yourself thoughtfully you
may perhaps consider a matter of
unimportant detail.

I have in fact been very busy all
this time and inexplicably stupid
all last week owing to a bad cold,

from which, as well as of the accompa-
nying symptoms I am but slowly
recovering, as I dare say, you will
not be loath to find out for your-
self. It was too bad that I had
to miss seeing Miss Clough and
hearing about Newnham. However

I want to make up for it, if
possible, by coming up for a few
days during the first week of my
Easter vacations, which begin a
week before yours, I believe, i. e.
on the 26. of March. Could you
not insinuate to Miss Clough — very
delicately — that she had better ask
me?

I shall probably go to the country from
Saturday till Monday next, to Revens,

house (Miss B. Larkes), where I am to
meet Miss Lincoln - not a very long
long bit, but still I think I shall
swallow it for the sake of the rest.

I went to the Ladies' Debate yesterday
night and thought it rather good for
once, at least one good and one witty
speech were made in the course of
the evening, which - for females -
you will allow, is not bad. How
ever Newham-hall certainly con-
tains more wit & eloquence within
its walls.

You kindly inquire most particularly
after my weakest points - the Geo-
graphy - class, and I am happy to tell
you, that I think by the end of the
year I may have instilled some know

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knowledge of the subject into myself,
if not into my pupils. But apart
from these personal deficiencies, on
the whole I like teaching much better
than I expected. I have two enthu-
siastic private pupils — one going
in for the B. A. and the other for matric-
ulation this June — who are so
miserable when they have to miss
a lesson, that — acting on my
kind suggestions — they generally
manage to get an extra one to
make up for it. I read English
Literature with one, and German
with the other, and like them both
I also enjoy attending the highest

Latin class, where we read Horace's
Satires and a comedy by Terence
& "Savi et Heli" - which details
may perhaps interest the classical
leopard. I am glad to hear the
classical trip went off well on
the whole - are you quite sure
Miss Harrison did not produce
the painting - fit for the sake of
"Attitude"? I believe she must
have looked most graceful and
interesting too under the process
of morphium-injections. What
with these intemperanzas, you seem
to have had quite a gay time of
it, especially in the retrospect.

I saw Miss Pigeon yesterday and
thought her ^{looking} very "ragged"; she is
tired by having to do extra-duty
for her sister who is ill, besides
pursuing her own studies.
It seems to me there is hardly any
body in London who has not got
more on his hands than is good
for him - myself not excluded
for I am afraid my G. C. is hope-
lessly drifting away from me,
while I attend to matters of detail
in the various branches of female
education. Miss Bostock some-
times tries to trip me up nicely,
but I do observe such punctilious

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politeness in my relations with her
that she finds it rather difficult
to get a handle, and I have once for
all declared my incompetency before
the council & committee with such
delightful frankness, nothing could
take them aback after that summary
account, except perhaps to find it
based on truth.

I have treated you far too generously
by, my dear Nelly, giving you
two sheets for one and some kinder
appellations in the bargain. However
I trust you will be duly thankful
and that kindness will not be lost
upon you. Give my love to the boys
and do recall me to the memory of my
old colleagues when occasion offers. Only
under this condition I remain
Yours affly
H.