

Fecollicus.

Madison Park. Nov. 13

86.

My dear Mary Catharine

Wend and Mrs
 Bears are coming to tea this afternoon
 but I will not risk being able to write
 after they leave. We were all here to tea
 on Wednesday, Mrs Bears did not
 seem as if she would say anything
 definite, you all seem to depend upon
 whether Henry goes to a lawyer's office
 in Canterbury or Dorchester. If he goes
 to Canterbury they would like to reduce
 their expenditure as much as possible
 and go into quite a small house. If he
 goes to Dorchester, he would live at home,
 and in that case I think Mrs Bears
 would take the house but that will not
 be decided until Easter. I asked if
 their movements would make any
 difference to you and me, and I said
 I did not think they would. He may very
 leave the house to the end of March and
 you would make what use you liked
 of it until then. But I have thought

since, that if, as seems the only thing
to do now, I take all our things away,
independently you may not care to
keep on through the summer. If you
do, I shall be very glad to take half the
rent, as we said before, and there are
the coats, which would last you until
September. But you could not well,
without buying a good deal, make the
dining room comfortable. The study
you might make very pleasant, and
the guest room. I think instead of
leaving a fire ready in the study,
I will leave it in Mamma's room,
and Papa's portrait where it used to
hang, over the fireplace. I shall go into
that room the last thing before I leave
the house. It was curious seeing that
portrait so like Papa. I remember that
long gallery very well. It was hung with
old tapestry when we were there. And
I remember Mrs Brownings house,
near the Pitts Palace. I went to Liverpool
on Thursday, returning yesterday.
It will indeed be a different house
from this, though many would

like it better. The things we have to take to
will not come to less than £45. But
then of course we can sell them to our
successors when the time comes. The
man's estimate for moving us is
£37, which I think very reasonable.
We move all our own books. I have
already packed all in the dining &
dressing rooms, and Lampett comes
on Monday to pack those in the study
and to put the apples and preserves
into the casks. The dining room still
looks very nice, and will do so to the
last. John goes next Saturday. He
will stay with a Mr Ling till Sunday
and I shall go there for two nights, after
I leave here. Eliza & Mabel will go to
Mrs Pears for two nights. She comes
over on the 25th and should be in
Liverpool on the Monday morning
following. I have engaged a woman
who is well known to Mrs Deusterley
to clean down the house ready for us.
There is only one room which wants
papering and whitewashing, the others
are all quite nice. I wish it was all done

I do not feel worried that I shall ever care
to look beyond the fern blinds. It is
a year today since Lillie was buried.
I remember Mamma speaking
about it last year. Aunt Jane had
just gone and she was just and settled
down again and she seemed so contented.
Then came the alteration in Noel's
room and so interested she was
in that.

I have been thinking you would in
any case, leave to buy stair carpets,
and the hall is so dark that almost
anything would do to cover it. Just
for yourself, putting callers aside
you would very soon make things
look comfortable for the summer.

Then again, if Mrs Beers did not take it,
Mr Purser would want to let it at Lady
Day. He likes the tenant to enter them. Of
course if you stand, he should be like
holding it on for Mrs Beers. But there is
nothing to hinder your being in it up
to March 25, free of any rent at all. I
will speak to Mrs Lillie on Tuesday.
I think she will come. I have read Myself
and am very pleased with the stamps. Your affectional
E. J. Stephens