

The Hollis. May 1st / 84. 5617

My dear Husband, your letter came
unusually early again this week.
I am very glad to know you are once
more justly settled in the midst of your
own work. I am sure Mr Carter would
be glad to have you back again. Remem-
ber me to him. You will see by Watson's
letter that the package was received on
board by the Company, so I hope sooner
or later you will have it all right. It
would be a great pity if anything happened
to it for there were so many useful odds
and ends, besides really good books, put
into that case. We are looking forward
more than ever to this new
arrival of curiosities from India.
Nod is quite in the spirit of school
again. The school has been re-arranged
and he is put in the first division.
He does Latin and Greek with only three
other boys, and they are all a couple of
years older than himself, but he keeps
up well, which is a great credit to him.
He drills with the boys this term and
is learning swimming with them,
as I thought you would like best. You
will see too an improvement in
spelling now. He is learning to be

more careful. His misspelling is really more carelessness than ignorance but I tell him it will sadly interfere with his success in life if he does not improve. Lillian and Mabel begin lessons on Saturday. I think Mabel will learn from this term. She is anxious to do so, so perhaps she will take more interest in it; or, as a rule, she does not care for work. She has some beautiful elements of character, nevertheless. Mrs. Buck is coming tomorrow to stay over Sunday. She was very anxious to see Mamma again. Then I do not expect any more guests until July, when I hope Ernest will come. Did I tell you I had arranged with Kunt & Beckett for the publication of my story. I hope I shall have health and strength to write one more, and then I shall retire from the profession, at any rate so far as novel writing is concerned. I shall have been at it steadily for five and twenty years then.

I do wish you could see the house and garden now. It is all so bright and pretty. I have been doing up Mamma's room, so as to make it not so much like a bedroom, and I am quite proud of my success. The garden looks prettier every year. The rockeries are just one mass of green now. Did I tell you a robin had built its nest in the one just in front of the window. As I sit here writing I can see the little mother sitting on her eggs. I have put some wire netting all round, to keep the cats away, and we are reckoning so much on seeing the young birds come out. Mamma keeps much the same. I do not see that she either gains or loses strength. She has got back, I think, to about the state she was in when you were here. She sends her love to you. She constantly uses your present of the Mrs. Benson now. I wrote to Mary about a fortnight ago, but I have not heard since. I wonder how she is.

I hope you have got all the boots safely
by this time. Have you had any good
views of the snow yet. How glad you
would be to see them again, after the
heavy coat of Lenten. And how
thankful you will be when you last
lot weather is over. Philip has been
very busy. His dressing room has
been entirely refitted and she has been
allowed to do it after her own taste.
I suppose it is very beautiful. I wish
I could see it, but that is not likely
at present. It is a good thing I am
able to visit myself happily at home
for I am obliged to keep pretty closely
to it now. I never it always suits me
to be quiet. We have just finished
knitting our sleeve just. There
is now just come in from school,
full of noise and life. He's the boy.
He is wonderfully bright over his
lessons now. We all send you
much love. We've not had you
away for a holiday.
Ever your loving &c.

2nd Sunday after Easter. 5617

S. John 10. from which the Gospel is taken.

Chapter divided into three

1. Parable of the Shepherd
2. " " " Door
3. " " " good Shepherd.

1. At night the sheep of different flocks are all driven into a large unenclosed space, & handed over to the porter.

A thief often tries to take the sheep, to kill, steal & destroy = the world, flesh & devil. When the shep. comes, he calls his sheep & they follow, so with Christ & His children. From mid-day heat a refuge is provided. This is the church to which

Christ is the Door.

We ought to follow Christ not the hireling
His path is not always pleasant, we
must see the marks of the nails, &
the cross. There is an old Irish legend
that a beautiful horse entices children
on to its back, & then carries them
away not to be seen again.

We must mind what we follow,
not the willow or the wisp enticing
people as Satan does to destruction.

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WM WATSON & CO

London ^W 4th Sep: 1884

E.C.

To
Mr Stephenson,
The Hollies, Malvern Link.

Dear Madam.

We are now informed
by the P.O. Co that the Rev.
Mr Stephenson's Chari was duly
shipped on board the "Khedive"
together with his 3 other packages.

We are

Dear Madam
Yours Faithfully,

Wm Watson