

5531

I shall be obliged to Mr. Hatfield Jan 12/77  
It is late this week.

My dear Mamma  
We are not going to Benares  
until Monday so I shall get a little  
more time to straighten up matters.  
Lee Bishop left last night. He dined with  
him at Lady Stuart's on Monday there  
was a large party about twenty. On Tuesday  
I dined there again, and on Wednesday  
John went, besides our going in during  
the day so that we saw a good deal of him.  
He is really a very pleasant man, though  
the splendour of the episcopal evening  
dress, apron, black silk stockings, and  
buckled shoes, seem to keep one at a res-  
pectful distance. He came to the city  
school treat on Tuesday and gave the  
children a little address. The treat went off  
very nicely. The children ate no end of  
cakes, sweets, plantains, peaches & after  
which they had little presents, and there  
were races jumping & for the boys.  
I am very glad it is over for it winds up  
our old winter employments. I am  
sure we have had a benefit of duties of  
all kinds during the last few months.  
By going to Benares we miss dining at  
the General's next week. This is the third  
time we have been asked, and not been  
able to go. I called to explain to Mrs.  
Maude how it was, and met Mr. Richard

Mead, one of the Indian shells. He is  
a very pleasant gentlemanly man.  
We are going to a private dance on the  
12 next month, a sort of little farewell  
to a very nice lady who is leaving the  
station. I have nearly finished getting  
my dresses ready for the lot another. It is  
a great help being able to get machine  
cotton, my machine goes as well as ever  
though I have never used it since the  
rains set in. I do not mean to spend a  
penny in dress until I come home. I  
have got some very useful ideas from  
that peck lady I mentioned before. She  
makes all her own things, and is most  
amiable in lending patterns &c. We  
have got a nice little story of Noline  
Lins in the house now, "New Wilner's  
Looming". I am dipping into Macleod's  
life, but I shall not have time to read  
it through. What do you think formed  
part of our dinner this evening? a  
peacock which one of our friends shot  
out in the jungle and sent to us. It is  
very like turkey. The Karsamank is very  
anxious to preserve some jingra for us.  
He says the proper kind can be got at  
Benares, so I shall let him try. You would  
be quite amused at my store of things  
now, in the way of assets. Mr Robbards  
left of the Admirals has introduced a

new era in my housekeeping. It is quite a  
pleasure to create things, now that I have  
a convenient place to put them in.  
Our little dog has quite made himself one  
of the family. She follows me wherever I go  
and seems to think it her duty to take care  
of me. She is a very bright little thing, though  
by no means a beauty. It is quite pleasant  
to have her about the house, he kept her tied  
up for a day or two, but I don't think she ever  
felt much disposition to run away. You  
must tell Mrs Burt that I saw the most  
splendid cat last night at Mrs Waterfield's  
a white Persian, an improvement even  
on Charlie, the superior of its race is  
nearly like Charlie's but it has a much  
finer, more fluffy coat and when it is  
full grown, will be a much larger animal.  
I note this last evening, whilst John  
was settling up his church accounts &c.  
then Mr Harrison came in, and after sitting  
awhile they went together to the station to  
meet some mutual friend who was passing  
through. All last night and today we have  
had the most beautiful unexpected rain,  
colored in by a violent thunder storm.  
It will do a world of good to everything be-  
sides the inestimable blessing of giving us  
three or four more weeks of cool weather.  
I have been putting out basins to catch  
soft water, which is such a luxury. When  
this rain is over, we shall have no more  
until the middle of July. As much of  
heat and discomfort we shall have done  
through before then.

I told you about that gentleman, lately  
dead, whom you went so frequently to see.  
Though he held a very good appointment, he has  
left his widow literally without a penny. She  
has not even money to pay her passage home,  
and yet they lived in great style, and no one  
in the station dressed more elegantly than she  
did. A friend of ours is now trying to sell her  
dresses for her. I called to day and she asked me  
into her bedroom to look at them. Such lovely  
ballroom and dinner toilette, and calling  
costumes; London silk with scarlet pomegranate,  
looping up tulle suit, rose coloured silk, blue  
Prunelle, green, pink, she might have gone  
to a ball every night in the week in a dif-  
ferent dress, and such boxes of flowers to  
match each dress. He had a salary from  
Government of £1200 a year, besides so that  
he could make by private practice as a barrister,  
and this is the end of it. I have recently  
done some getting my lot matter things  
ready. I thought as I came home this evening  
that if I had to sell my wardrobe, it would  
not make quite such a fine show as the one  
I had just seen. I shall know better what sort  
of things to get when I come home. In the cool  
weather here some wear exactly the same  
thing, as in England, and in the hot weather  
and rains, comfort is more considered than  
appearance. When all the "repairs" are done  
we mean to have a picture of the house taken  
to send to you. Give my love to all enquiring  
friends. Does Miss Peaves know if her nephew  
is really coming here and when? I should  
like much to see him. Does David come to  
see you at. Your affectionate daughter Eliza