

See Hollis Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1883

5599

My dear Husband,

Your letter has come in very good time this week. Noel was greatly pleased with his, which I read aloud to them all. He is quite a schoolboy now, deep in Latin and Greek and football. I watch his health very carefully, and I think by guarding the weak places he will grow up into a tolerably strong man. But over study and over exercise will never do for him. I do not think he can do better than teach him with Mrs Douglas until he is fourteen and then send him to a public school.

Last Friday I was sitting at my work in the dining room and Estlin came in with two cards, Mrs and Miss Riley. Lee said "See lady says you will not know her, but she is aunt to the children". I thought it was a curious impulse to send in by a servant. So I went to them, but I did not ask them any questions. Mrs Riley only said she was great aunt to them, and that Mrs Robert Smith had given her an address. As the children



were all at school here, I asked Mr and Mrs Kiley to come to tea yesterday, which they did. They seemed very pleased with the children. Miss Kiley is a bright pleasant, well educated person, though with no air of breeding about her, but Mrs Kiley is very inquisitive, she was continually asking Eliza questions about her relations. I carefully avoided asking any questions myself, indeed I had enough to do in replying to the which were asked of me. All I know is that Mrs Kiley lived at Bristol and has come for a fortnight to Malvern. She did not tell me the address of her lodgings here, and did not ask the children to go and see her, for which I was glad. I think, having let them alone so long, she might have let them alone to the end.

We are having our first bushkin reading this afternoon. There will be about a dozen of us. I shall do it the same as the Shakespeare; we read from half past three to five, then

come into the dining room for tea and then talk and trifle until six, then a break up. We shall only have them once a month, but perhaps I may have little ones in between, just for the children. Miss Douglas is one of our company. I am glad you have met with a pony, but I'm often for will miss your old friend and favourite. There is something we have not fathomed it about the spirit of what we are pleased to call a "brute".

Monday. I was here disturbed and was not able to finish my year. This morning I received 6 copies of See Senior Longman, from New York. At the end there is a big advertisement "See books of Eliza F. A." I never saw my name in such large letters before. They have published twelve altogether, but they are not all down in the list. I believe the others were published in Canada.

We had a very pleasant gathering yesterday. Twelve of us besides the children. We began with the volume "Lore and Eliza." I think all the people liked it. We read so long that we had not much time for



talk, but most time we will have portions  
of reading and then portions of discussion  
alternately. I hear to my astonishment  
that Mr and Mrs Peterson are at home.  
Lee is expecting a fourth baby this month.  
He has only come on three months'  
leave. I suppose they are up in Scotland.  
Noel is becoming very much inter-  
ested in football, he is in the "team"  
of the school, which he considers quite  
an honour. They are playing matches  
with the College, with Mr Fudge's boys,  
and some other school. I think the  
exercise may be good for him, if he  
does not carry it too far, but I am  
no lover of the game. Mr Douglas plays  
on the Association rules, which are  
not so brutal as those of Rugby. Noel  
does in with all his heart for anything  
that he takes to. Mamma seems better  
and brighter now, but she is not what she  
used to be in health. I have had a very  
morning again and I am tired in  
consequence. Divers little repairs had  
accumulated and I have had the car-  
penter doing them accordingly.  
Ever your loving Yr