

The Hollies. July 10<sup>th</sup> / 64.

5627

My dear Husband,

The weather is left oppressive  
ive run, and one seems to have more use  
of one's faculties. I don't know when I have  
felt so dead alive as I did when I wrote to you  
last week. He will go on as usual. Mary Johnson  
left us last Saturday. She is a good looking  
girl, simple and well bred, and will be a  
pleasant companion for the children.  
He is very wishful for them all to go and  
visit her. It is a sort of life that will be whole-  
some for them, so forcing us display  
about it, so far as I can see. Her musical  
powers are very superior. He staid one day  
longer with us in order to hear her best  
play. He is with us now, as he has the most  
exquisite music every day. He leaves us  
on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for a visit to the Bishop of St.  
David's, and on the 26<sup>th</sup> Ernest comes.  
I had a very pleasant letter from him  
the other day. I have not had the opportunity  
yet of having a talk with Mr Douglas about  
Marlborough. Did you not mention upon the  
subject with him yourself when he dined  
here? The boys must be under fifteen and  
the examinations are at Christmas so  
that Noel would have to get through it when  
he was a little over fourteen. He works well

at his lessons now. I wish he was more robust, but we cannot have that all at once. He did a very pretty thing yesterday, and he told me of it so simply and naturally. He was going to Malvern to get his hair cut and overtook a little boy in what he called "the last stage of misery". He went across and walked beside him, and little by little, got out of him what was the matter. He had been playing with his football, when a big boy came and kicked it over into Mr. Herriss' grounds and then ran away. He said his father would be so angry about it, as he had already lost his football. Noel went to the Lodge gate and asked "very politely" whether it would do any harm if he went in and looked for the ball. He was told he might go, and after a long hunt he found the ball and brought it to the little boy who went on his way rejoicing. I was very much touched by the unmediated way in which Noel told me about it. There is great refinement and nobility about the boy. My fear for him is that upon such a temperament the blows of the world will fall too roughly. May God protect him. Lillian and Mabel have much more power of taking care of themselves, and they will not suffer so much. Mamma continues nicely. She sends

her love to you. Last Saturday a very pretty white knitted dress came for me by post, and I could not at all keep the giver. A day or two after, I learned it was from Mrs. Trotter, who is now at Southampton. She had knitted it herself. It was really very good of her. I have sent her copies of two of my stories. The last of the line is published in America but I did not send you a copy as I thought you had some already. I think Lady Darnley will soon be published now. I will send you a copy as soon as I can. I have bought a very interesting book by Principal Caird - "The Philosophy of Religion". You will enjoy reading it when you come home. You have not told me how you like "Lion of Life". Your waterproof has arrived from Lordings, and now I am only waiting for the suits. The waterproof seems a very good one. You will find it useful at home too. It is good strong but light material, black till. I have written to Appleby and to hurry them about the suits. We had a pleasant afternoon party on Monday. Mr. West read Browning's "Chet Vogel" to us, and then played a Sonata by Bach, which he thinks interprets it. He likes much to read a poem, and

then play some beautiful music in  
illustration of it. We mean to have some  
more of these musical afternoons, & I hope  
to be here. You would be quite proud to  
see Mr. Thompson also come & admire the  
house and its oriental contents. Some  
friends of his best also came on Tuesday  
were very much charmed. I am indeed  
quite proud of the Rollies work and if I only  
thought we were going to stay here long enough  
could I not make it still more beautiful  
by spending a little money over it. The  
house is becoming quite distinctive.

With your letter came one from the  
Bank with £30. Will you send the  
enclosed receipt to them. What a good thing  
it is that you can be with Mr. Carter, as  
living is so expensive. I shall always feel  
that I am a debtor to him. Mr. I wish  
I could be at Gungolding too. But Major  
Lottor says he thinks the sun view  
from some parts of Switzerland is  
quite as fine. So there is hope for me.  
Oh for a long quiet rest amongst the  
oaks, or at Venice or Florence.

Much love from us all. Mr. West  
sends his kind regards.  
Love lovingly  
Ed.