

York June 12<sup>th</sup> 1846 5487

Dear Joseph

I cannot tell you how disappointed I felt at the information your letter contained. I had been expecting it some days, and when it did arrive, I held it in my hand for some time, to gain nerve enough for the yes or no it contained. I had hoped, I can scarcely say, expected, to see you, for it seemed to be so much the one desire of my heart, I scarcely did expect it to be gratified, and really was tempted to indulge a wish, that a slight attack of gout, or something not very vital, might just give D.<sup>r</sup> C. to think that home would be the best place for him: the only consolation I could derive, was from the consideration that if there would not be the pleasure of meeting, there would not be the pain of parting — I was sorry the miniature was broken, it would have been wise to have reserved it until I had an opportunity of sending it by a private hand but I had just then brought myself to part with

it, and I feared if I did not send it then, I  
might be tempted to keep it after all. I now  
feel most thankful I did send it, and can  
readily conceive Mrs. H's feelings on first sight  
of it; we used to think had our dear Joseph  
been spared, it would have been much like  
him. I only regret you did not receive it in a  
more perfect state. I shall be glad to receive  
the tokens you have had taken for me, but I was  
quite startled to hear of the glasses. Are you really  
obliged to wear them? ~~in~~ this particular I have  
the advantage of you, my eyes are as strong as  
when a child, and my teeth are perfect, indeed tho'  
my health is feeble, I at present am insensible  
of the approach of age. My hair is very grey, but  
you know I do not often see that, and therefore  
forget that part of the affair, but seriously though time  
deals leniently with me, it is very rapidly passing  
away. I cannot say with what interest I shall receive  
the books you name, they will to some extent bring  
me acquainted with your family: shall I ever know  
more of them? You will not be surprised to hear our  
dear Aunt Rockworth has expired into rest, she

died last Monday morning June 1<sup>st</sup>, after very  
severe and protracted suffering. Benjamin wrote  
to my father, and as he is now at Nottingham  
I answered the letter, but to me, as to you, it was  
really a loss: as children Ben<sup>m</sup> and I never  
loved each other, and I have seen nothing in  
him to make me change my opinion; there  
never was any sympathy of feeling between us, and  
now I do not suppose there ever will: his only  
daughter is married to a gay, frolicsome, dash-  
ing young farmer named Cartwright, but I  
hear she is a nice young woman -

You enquire after my sisters: we have heard twice  
from them of late, and have had much better  
accounts, their health had much improved, and  
they had renewed their engagement with govern-  
ment, for 3 more years, they have now about 190  
pounds ann between them, and they give most satis-  
factory accounts of the success of the undertaking.  
We are thinking of sending Mary Catherine to school  
after Michaelmas; we shall not send her out of York for  
her health is not very strong, and we should like

to have her near: the Ladies who conduct the school  
are pious church women, eminent Christians, and  
the system of education is solid and substantial,  
the accomplishments having only their proper place;  
they take about 25 boarders, no day-pupils at all, a  
very sweet young French woman an intimate friend  
of poor Catherine's, resides with them: the terms are very  
high 40 per ann, and every accomplishment in  
proportion, but we must make some sacrifices  
to meet them, for in the lower schools not more  
boys are congregated together, to make up the deficiency  
in terms, that I dare not send her amongst such  
or snags; and as she <sup>has</sup> never yet received any  
instruction except from her papa and myself  
she is quite ignorant of the civility which pre-  
vails where a number of young females mix  
indiscriminately together - You must present my  
affectionate regards to your family circle and  
believe me your very affectionate though very  
disappointed cousin

M. Labor