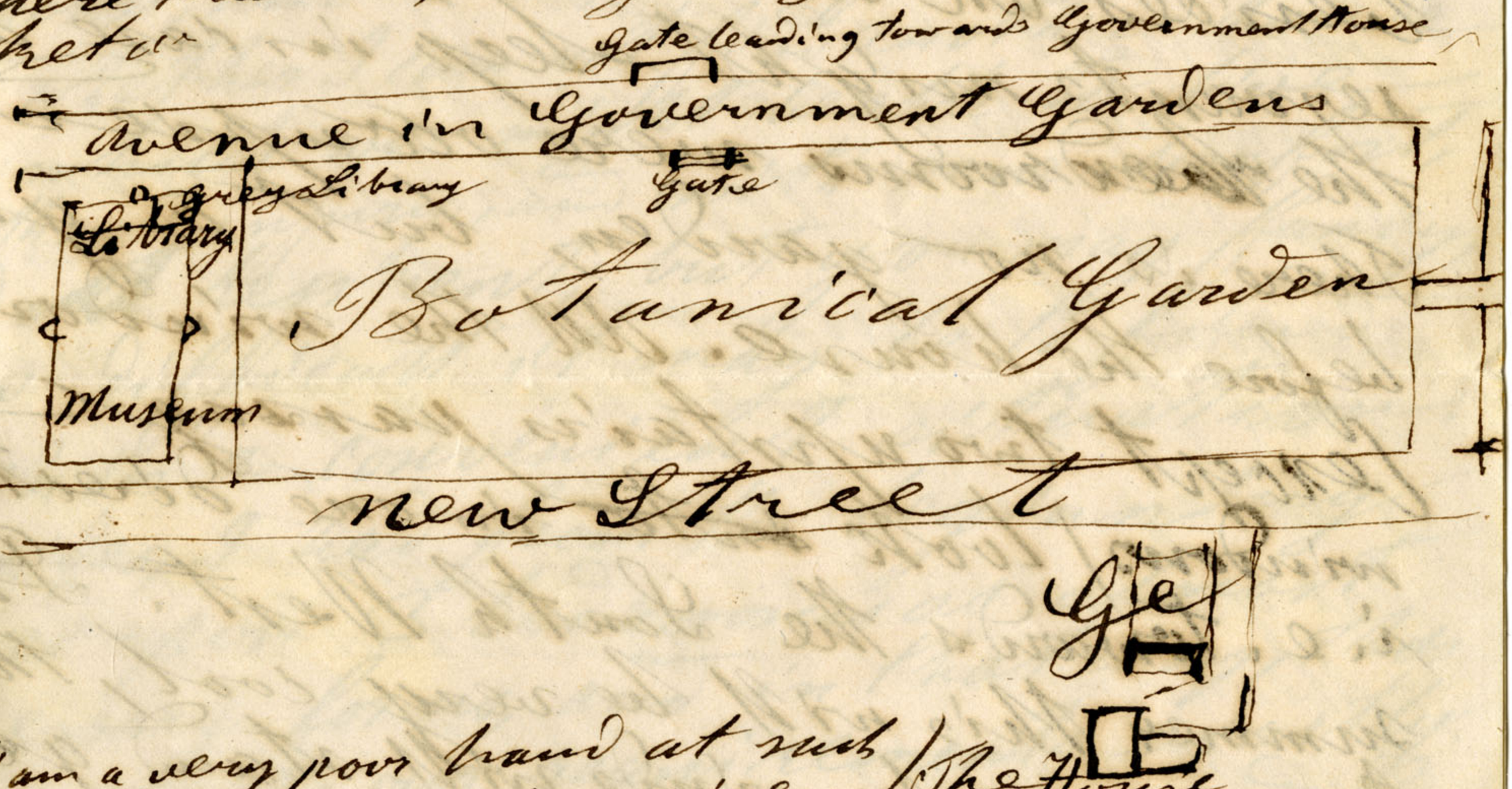
Capetown, 27 August 1862

My Dear Lucy,

A few lines by to morrow's Mail shall tell you mainly that last Saturday the Committee of the S. A. P. L. have decided to appoint me Grey Librarian, or Librarian to the Library presented to it at the salary of £250, to date from the 1st of February last. Otherwise there is little to tell, except that I am pretty well. I have not yet taken a horse, being afraid of the musquitos, and wishing on that account to hear first again from you. The house, which I have in view, is situated in New Street. I do not know whether you know where that is, and give you here a hasty sketch



(I am a very poor hand at such sketches, as you perceive.) The House You see it is very near to the Library, and close to the Gardens and on that account very convenient. It is just the size we want, and has many

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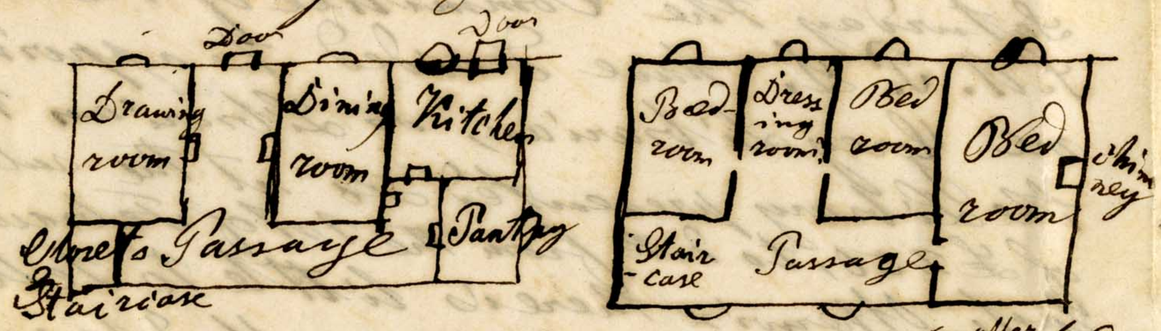
advantages as for example a kitchen in the house, &c. As far as I can recollect, I will give you here its plan.



The passage between the two smaller bedrooms up stairs might easily be fitted up as a dressing room &c. The large bedroom is about 24 feet by 12. There is besides an outhouse, in which servants might sleep in case all the bedrooms were occupied. There is no garden, but a yard before the house. All the windows (except two upstairs passage windows) look ~~onto~~ in one direction, i.e. towards the South West. In summer this will be very cool, though they summerly winds will stand greatly upon it. It is, however, to a great extent, lying in a sheltered situation. In winter, I am afraid, we might find it somewhat cold. The rent asked is £5-10 per month, and that is comparatively not high. Water is laid on, and the house substantially built. The paper is rather worn, but they would do something to the house, in case I took it. I could not easily get a smaller house or a cheaper one, except I took a small cottage which ~~would~~ might be got at £4 per month, but most of them are badly built, and unhealthy, and I should so much wish we should be able to have our dear sisters here staying with us. On the other hand, I know indeed that it must be a great object for us to save any unnecessary expense, and I am, therefore, still working out whether I can not find another house in which we might be able to live without injury, and with some comfort, and at less rent; but you may fancy, how difficult it may be to find such in a convenient situation. Besides, I had from the beginning fixed upon 3 bedrooms as almost necessary for us, and in that way, this house meets our requirements exactly. There is just between this house and the one in the above sketch, a Street, an other belonging to the same proprietor, standing empty. It has the advantage of having an enclosed

enclosed garden before it, but on that account the ~~house~~ rent is £6-10, though the house is ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ not so eligible in itself, as the above. All the windows are here also on one side, viz. facing the South East. Kitchen &c. is not in the House. There are four double window rooms, and two with single windows. But I do not think of this house, though of course a garden would be very nice, but I'm afraid we cannot afford it, besides some special objections which I have against the House. The Mosquitoes are so plentiful in this neighbourhood on account of the stream running between the Botanical Gardens and New Street, becoming stagnant in summer, though being very full of water just now. I very much wish I could get the quarters at the Museum which belong to the Curator, but I have a very poor chance, though it would be an enormous advantage for me to have them. — 28 August. I finish this in the Library, it is nearing time. — This morning Mrs. Jamison was here with two German ladies, to look

look at the books & manuscripts. She told me that she had a letter from you by last Mail, and I told her then of my engagement, and that we expected you here. She was very nice about it, and very glad to hear it. You know Capt. Jamison is at present staying in the Military Hospital, and so she is alone at Roesaths. Besides here there is at present only one German family, lately arrived, a Mr., Mrs. & Miss Behrens, the last the sister of Mr. Behrens. Mrs. Behrens is a niece of our Bonn physician, Dr. Wolff, of whom you have heard through Jemmie's letters &c. I did not know her in Germany, but of course we have many common acquaintances. So I dined with them last Sunday, and know, therefore, all about the house. I did not see the Roesaths that time. They left just a week ago, I think, through Death the husband of Mr. Roesaths sister.— The Hills, I hear, may possibly not return so soon. Some people at least say that they may not be expected back before next year. She is said to be much better. The Roenths however, expect them soon back, and keep a room already ready for them. I cannot say how glad

the idea of your coming here makes me; yet I trust you do it only when you quite conveniently can. I am afraid I would make a sad mess of getting things ready for our darling without such a loving help; and shall probably leave almost everything to the last moment, if not my letters from England tell me of her coming sooner than we expect her now. — Right by, there is a French man of war in Gloucester which left Marseilles on the 23rd of July, and brings the news that General McClellan was beaten back before Richmond, and had to retreat with his troops. — But I must close.

Yours with best love
ever
W. H. S. B.