

14 Princes Street
Cavendish Sqre. W
Wednesday June 23
/69

Dearest Brothers

You can fancy how glad I was to get your long letters by horseman when Wilhelm joined me at Hawkhurst on the 11th, Richard Burne having left them here at our lodgings the eveng before. It made me so glad my dear dear fellows to know that things had been going pretty smoothly with you & that even dear Loui had kept tolerably well & able for work as I know how that wd help thro' the dreary time. Your letter of May 12th by Himalaya which reached us on the following (June 24th) Tuesday I think (the 15th) did not bring such good accounts but I had feared that some reaction must come after all the fatigue of your removal & so many other things. I need not tell you of what interest were all the things that you told us. I fear that our letters must be very shabby ones this time Wilhelm ____ has already told you partly why. I suppose he does not like the idea of anything being known at the Cape while in process. You can fancy with him scampering abt London all day with different letters of introduction, calling again to find people in et cet at any time is much taken up in keeping his coats brushed et cet, seing that he gets good food quickly whenever he comes in for it, & doing any other little thing that I can to help him in this busy anxious time. Then of course there is Edith with all her little needs, then notes to answer, people calling, trying to get one's wash clothes sorted & put by et cet (I have not unpacked one of our Hawkhurst boxes yet). And then one gets so tired out that there is nothing for it but snatching any spare quarters of hours to try and get somewhat rested & better tempered if possible. I was so much better after the stay at Hawkhurst (as soon as I'd a little recovered the overfatigue of journey back here) that the first week in London was comparative play, some of it almost pleasant indeed from feeling so much more up to things.

On the Tuesday (the 15th) Mrs Fisher & Miss Brough lunched with us (the latter accidentally) (she asked me one time to remember her to you both). Bepie with carry Berens called in afternoon. Edith, Moth [?] & I started out in her direction & then we two called at the Richard Burnes, Miss Ricketts (Aunt Libby's friend), the Webers (our nice Dr whose wife called in our absence) & Mrs Fisher of Eaton Place. The latter had also called while we at Hawkhurst [sic]. She was the one place where they were not out. Poor thing she is such a sad wreck of what she was. She seems quite unable to get over poor May's death. She was very kind & seemed really pleased to see me. He too, but he looks well & happier than in old days I thought. the 16th I forget. one of them Augusta Heinrich (of Bonn [?] formerly) called & seemed so pleased to see Edith for the likeness to the Bleeks. She is a pleasant sensible woman. Teaches music now for many years in London Dr Bleek was her guardian once. The 17th Thursday very busy with Wilhelm ____s, up til 12 writing out clear copy et cet. Friday 18th Mary Lenon & her sister lunched here afterwds Edith & I walked to Aunt Carry's who was in & kind, looking so much better for her Coulsdon visit, more like her old self. Oh the Byrons asked us to Coulsdon in this week wh I speak of but their 1st letter being misdirected never reached us & when they wrote again in wonder at no reply it was too late as they left for Scotland (fishing intentions on Edwds part) this Friday. I was very vexed abt it at the time there [?] was O I shd have liked more for all our sakes than another bit of country & seeing that old place ____ July again & the young ones with their children but I daresay it was best so, as this wd either have delayed Wilhelm's trotting [?] abt after his business just then beginning, (wh is worth trying well for if attempted at all), - or he wd have been alone here in day, not taking proper care most likely - going back to cold air of Coulsdaon for the night. And as he so fortunately lost his cold in that week's change to Oxfd Hawkhurst it is worth so much to prevent his catching one again dear fellow.

Oh on Sunday the 13th we had gone in afternoon to see the Edward Lenons at Notting Hill & on Wednesday the 16th Wilhelm dined at the Domvilles.

On Friday the 18th of wh I was last writing, after Aunt Carry's we joined Wilhelm here & went to call on the Grays of British Museum. He a nice kindly old man. She ill. A pleasant niece-in-law & nephew there. Saturday 19th Bepie lunched here & spent afternoon in course of wh Aunt ____ unexpectedly appeared also & stayed a nice long time. She had run away in dread of her first lonely Sunday at Coulsdon & was in Baker St. for 3 nights. She was very kind & nice. Her old young amusing self & Wilhelm coming in for cocoa there was much laughing & general fun. She spent the following Sunday eveng (20th) with us, Wilhelm & Edith having spent all its afternoon at the Zoo. I stayed at home being tired & wanting to brush clothes write to Ju__ (whose letters of the previous Tuesdays post I enclose to you in case she herself shd not write much) & get ready for Aunt Ju__ wh I'd asked to come early - since that day I've been beginning to feel so very tired & weak again. My face ache also ____ daily to come back. On Sat I'd written my [?] letter to ____ asking him for any introduction in his power that might help Wilhelm in this thing.

Monday 21st we were to spend day with the Ed Lenons but I managed to get E & myself under way [?] a little earlier & go to Mrs Blumen Ward's [?] en route to ask her help also (in case there mt be still an influential ____ of her family left) for Wilhelm. She was very kind & seemed really pleased to see me again. We then went on to Nottg Hill where Wilhelm joined us in the evening for high tea. Ned [?] coming home from the city also. They were very kind & Maurice & Edith had much play together.

Tuesday 22nd - a very dead day. At Ju__ to say goodbye in morning, finding me still in dressing gown after 11. Mrs Ward called in afternoon to offer to forward a letter to Prince [Kteane] so that it really should reach him. Wilhelm to Kew to find Hooker who is not back yet. Wednesday 23rd Mary Elizabeth Lloyd with the eldest of William's daughters a girl of 15 ____ called in afternoon for some time. Afterwds Wilhelm having a business respite took Edith to Hyde Park for a breath of fresh air & some quiet. I feel the constant street noise here so badly. Oh Weber called 1st in afternoon, tells me to rest, rest & ____ rest, & to take tonic often. He says it is London wh is making me weaker not gd for me generally just now & this brings neuralgis et al back.

Today 24th Nobody has been & we are finishing for the mail before going out.

Dear Brothers I've tried to give you this ____ resume of the past fortnight, thinking it may be better than none. And now I want to ask you dear Loui kindly to write to Mrs Bannock [?] for me (or see her if you like that best) & ask her if still disengaged from the middle (say 15th) of December next until the middle or end of January to keep that time for me. I don't think I shd need her before abt Xmas day but being in the country it wd be safest to have her from the 15th I think, do not you? I shd want her of course for the full four weeks at any rate, so perhaps it is best to say till the end of January to ensure not being left before one is fit to do without her. Of course this way will cost more, in but in such a thing I think it hardly wise to mind that. If she is engaged of course I must leave it ____ by chance of whom I get when I come.

I don't know if I've omitted anything I wanted particularly to tell or ask you dear Brothers, save to remember me most kindly to Kate & when writing to Natal to give my particular love to Papa. My love to ____ & Ed__, my thanks to dear Bella for the last notes. Uncle Henry & Uncle Marmaduke & Wilhelm seemed to get on happily together. I enclose at ____ last little note if _____. Lady Herschel asked after you both & asked me on leaving to give my love to dear Fanny & Lucy. Isabella was away & we had time for so short a call that I cd not ask for any others who mt have been at home. Grandchildren were playing on the terrace w nice Gordon boys et cet. She had called one afternoon ____ then & seen me & asked me to come & bring Wilhelm. She was very civil. I had nearly said kind but I do not quite believe her.

Goodbye my dear dear Fan & Loui

With best love

Your own

Jemima

Have had a very kind letter from __ in answer to mine, doing too what he can to help.