

WILLIAMS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

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PAGE 1

Holloway, Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1831

My dearest Jane,

I arrived here the day before yesterday on our holiday expedition with my husband who wished for a little change of air & scene on account of his health. We left dear mother last Wednesday quite well except that her breathing is occasionally not so easy as you would wish it to be. Caroline & F Byson are with her & Patty remains in the house during our absence. You will be surprised to hear of our coming south when the Marshes are at Southwell, but Edw<sup>d</sup> having been in rather indifferent health lately wished very much for a little variety and having a commission for a pianoforte he determined to come & see John for a little while and as he could not get on at Christmas without sending for me, it was of no use to set out again alone, but I am very sorry to leave behind me those relatives whom we see so little of in general as we do of Edw<sup>d</sup> & Lydia for though they have been at Southwell since the beginning of last February I could only occasionally leave home to spend an hour or two with them for though we have had very few pupils during the last half year I find very few persons with whom even a small number of children may be left satisfactorily. Miss Wist returned home last summer when we had a new damsel to seek. Miss Dupuy was recommended to us who had been two years in a school at Brighton. She is very prepossessing in her manners & appearance & ever since she has been with us had read little besides her Bible & books

PAGE 2

on prophecy, which support the opinion of Christ's personal reign, and though the latter study was not one which we thought likely to tend to much good yet her continual reading of the Bible would we thought have a delightful influence upon her general conduct, but we soon found the natural man had still to be subdued & shewed itself chiefly in ill temper towards the children. I was then obliged to give her a few lectures but this put us in a very unpleasant situation because it is not a desirable measure to take the part of the children against their instructress, this we managed pretty well and as there was a good deal we liked about her we intended to go on with her but as she was also possessed of a good opinion of her own judgement & that of her own Swiss friends & but little regard for our own poor notions she would not listen to our advice for her health & we suppose having the disorder called home sickness she persuaded her father the climate did not suit her and he has desired her to pack up her things & come to meet him in France, so we have now to look out for a new assistant whose peculiarities we have again to learn. Aug<sup>st</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Southwell

On our return home I found a letter from Miss Dupuy expressing a good deal of affection and telling us she was on the eve of departing for America instead of to the dear Swiss mountains in consequence of the uncertainty of things in Switzerland as well as in most other parts of the Continent, so I think she had better have remained where she was comfortably settled; but all things considered we do not neglect her leaving us. Her successor here is the daughter of a French Minister Anciens of plain manners and very quiet & sober, but not too fond of work, in short we have never done so well since you left us as

*PAGE 3*

when you shared our labours & i fear i never shall feel attached to any one again as I was to you. We spent nearly three weeks very pleasantly at John's and bought a pianoforte from Miss Milward of [Hex....] and Miss M Watson of Southwell & we saw a little of Mary who was looking very well & was a good deal improved as she does not talk so much about dear Mrs Irons as she did & is rather more reasonable in general. She even talks of coming to see us when she has a spare opportunity and this she has not done since 1822 or 1823. She seems as indefatigable as ever, only it is in her own way. She has a Sunday School which she & one other lady attend entirely themselves & this seems to be the object Mary has chiefly before her at this time. We staid two nights at Sydenham with kind Mrs Rivington who takes a most lively interest in all the New Zealand branches of our family & she listened with great pleasure to some of our [last] communications. Her garden is [very] pretty and the front is ornamented with New Zealand Fushias (sic). Mrs R's mind seems a good deal opened to the reception of religion further since you all went away & she has lately had the benefit of hearing Mr Houghs who has been for some time employed as curate in their church but she regrets he is not likely to remain. John is become a very fine young man but rather slow in his notions which annoys his mother a good deal. I called twice upon Mrs Clarke, alias Eliz<sup>th</sup> Byron. She seems very happily married for her husband is one who I believe fears God. He is now a special pleader & has a good deal of business but little profit at present, but as they live with his Grandmother they do very

*PAGE 4*

well the only inconvenience attending the present plan is that she can only occasionally have Fanny to stay with her as Mr Clarke has a brother & sisters who all find a home there when they please & his mother is also a constant resident with the Grandmother so they have not much room for supernumeraries. At this time of the year Mr Clarke has always a holiday from business & therefore takes this opportunity of going into the country and Miss Fanny is gone to accompany them. Mrs Chas not yet followed the example of the prolific ladies in New Zealand. Two days after our return home she had again the delight of hearing of you & from dear Henry Williams & Marianne & of the happy increase in both families & that you have been preserved in health, both mothers & children. I desire to thank

*CROSSHATCH OVER PAGE 1*

God for your recovery. We have again had a letter from Wm & one from Marianne dated last May and arrived Sept 25<sup>th</sup> for which we are exceedingly grateful. I find we can miss the chance of sending this by Capt Duke. It is therefore to be despatched by Mr Pilgrim, whom I hope you remember he is one of the nicest men in Southwell tho a Methodist. If I have not time to write more you must accept my heart love to your dear selves & believe me ever your most affectionate

Sister

Catherine Heathcote

I shall send next by Maria Coldham