

April 13, 1832

Dearest Jenny,

I am in despair of filling this sheet nevertheless I shall do all in my power & first I must tell you we have sent two boxes lately to Town containing things principally for Marianne, but with a few for you. You will find a continuation of the newspapers which I am glad to find you value. Also a workbox for you which is a present from Edward & he hopes you will find it useful. I have put in 6 teaspoons for your use & benefit being part of the old stock & I hope you will not think them too shabby to use. The ½ doz knives & forks are for our correspondent David & tho' they are not new I hope they will not be beneath his acceptance. I have also sent a piece of print for Mrs David for her holiday dress and I hope she will be skilful enough to make it up or at least under your close superintendence. Her work and indeed all the work appears to us most satisfactory & far beyond what any of us expected. We have in consequence been obliged to set our stitches to rights & some little pinafores which you will receive, I have had undone since the arrival of your work as it put ours to shame. Finding a piece of narrow not begun by our beloved mother I was induced to on with it & make a common cap for its accommodation that none of her precious stitches should be wasted. The little frock body and cap I bought last summer for N.Z. use but as I cannot guess to whom they may be acceptable I must leave this important matter to be settled among yourselves the piece of narrow lace I found among dear mother's things & I thought it would do nicely for the caps. You will find four pairs of small gloves for your dear little bairns

and now having spoken of everything the box contains I must begin to acknowledge your various tokens of affection. I have however omitted /^{saying} the tunes are for W^m being some of those upon your [.....] & are all Ed^{ed} has been able to write, not that you are to suppose that he is always so busy he cannot think of his friends far & near, but he is so often so very poorly that he has not power to do what he would otherwise wish to do. One of the little boxes is for your eldest daughter as I did not think your old scrub worth another voyage. The rest of the things are I hope written down upon a piece of paper for I forget the exact arrangement though it was intended for everyone to have something. We have had the happiness of securing /^{in Jan} three letters from you all written last Sept & in Feb & one from Marianne written in June. Also those from David & Martha with a pattern gown of Marianne & comb from her & what I call a large counterpane from you & Will & some shells from you to dear mother. These are all we have received though I am not without hopes that the rest are in London. I have presented myself with the yellow bag & Mrs Toiwangai's [sic] wristband, which I show to such friends as are interested about their fellow creatures. The rest I sent to Miss Cooper & I will send you the picky note I rcvd from her & tho' she acknowledges them, it seems, as coming from me, they were not sent as my presents. I beg you will accept our grateful thanks for your nice letters and remembrances. I wish I were half as good in my correspondence you must think me quite an unemployed

person as I have no bairns of my own to fill up my time but I am fully occupied with other people's and as every thing is now dependant upon me it is with difficulty that I can discharge my duties both at home and to my many scholars & friends, for we have constantly some great interruptions. I have been much hindered lately by a taste of our palace troubles having had the misfortune to have a forward little girl – a daughter of Sam Newham's of Nott^m. We have for some months had soldiers quartered here in case of any disturbances either here or in the neighbourhood & Miss Newham thought proper to set her cap at these gentry so that they were constantly passing the windows & Miss N took every opportunity either public or pr[ivate] of answering their bows & smiles. There w[ere] many attendant particulars which I n[eed] not trouble you with, but they altogether showed her to be a most dangerous companion & as she was fast drawing others in, we thought the only thing for us to do was for Edw^d to take her home as soon as possible after I had written to her father. This step we are every day more and more convinced was the only plan for us to adopt & we were not surprised to find the poor girl's friends highly displeased & incensed against us. We were very miserable for a tie but the conviction that we were acting for the real good of all has supported us & I have after thought of Elis being punished because his sons committed wickedness & he restrained them not. Poor Mrs Gordon is still at Nott^m with

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the little Franklins but i believe her engagement with them will soon end at least she has been told so. I sent her the matter & I thought she had written to you since. I seldom see her as it is difficult for us to meet. She is I think much improved in her religious views, looking only to Christ for salvation & feeling the vanity of the world and the evil of her own heart. Her son is returned from Jamaica & is now doing well with an

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attorney at Reading as the Burnsidess forbid his being in Nottingham. This poor Mrs G was obliged to comply with, but when she has done with her present dear children she looks forward to having her son with her & keeping a small day school. But what is better she trusts implicitly to almighty providence to order things for her. I was surprised that you should ask who Miss Barnard is. Do you not remember

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that our sister Caroline's half sister married a Mr Barnard who has been unfortunate in his affairs several times. The young lady in question is his second daughter & is a most excellent nature. As she wished for improvement in order to forw[ard] her going out as a governess dear mother considered it alright to invite her for a twelvemonth & after that time we engaged her to remain with a salary to let us a little at liberty during EGM's residence but as she does not like going to church & to Southwell church she was not averse about remaining but in every other respect we liked her exceedingly. She is a most upright

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conscriberis curative. As I wished to fill my sheet to[o] well I shall conclude with best love to those dearest to you & remain your very affectionate sister

C. Heathcote