

WILLIAMS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

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Southwell, Oct 5th 1833

Dearest Jane,

I left off in the account of the Batchelor family; the oldest girl Ann is still at school with us for tho' she is nearly eighteen, I intend to keep her at work till we can hear of something desirable for her as governess, for as she has the opportunity of qualifying herself she would be very blind to neglect it & she is a steady kind of girl with very good abilities. The only objection is that she is very good looking /^{and a little indolent.} The next child that we have anything to do with is Chappell who has very fair musical abilities. On the first of January 1822 he began music with his uncle & on the last day of the year tho' only about 10 ½ years old he performed the whole service at church in the afternoon. Do you not think this pretty well? He learned the Piano as well as the Organ & can play many lessons, Anthems, Services, Chants, Voluntaries etc in proper style. He comes here to practise every morning at 7 o'clock till 8 & then from 9 till 12 & after dinner he goes to the Cargile's School, but at 3 he runs to church to play the Psalms every afternoon. Edw^d wishes to get him on as fast as possible for Charles Noble his last apprentice has just finished his time and he does not intend to have another before Chappell, he will therefore have to work hard for this consideration to his nephew for of course he must frequently go to church himself or pay Noble for going while he is in the Town. Chappell is a very nice boy clever & steady. The youngest child is Margaret named after Mrs Garrett, a quick child 6 ½ years old. Till last Christmas she went to Miss Woodward's when I begged Mrs Batchelor to send her here & we have now quite broken her in, tho' as she was

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the youngest she required a little firmness. She now does her lessons very nicely & we make her dine here & walk with the children in order to keep her from running in the streets as you remember is too much the custom in this place. If I did not mention Mrs Gordon in my last, you will be glad to hear she is at length settled after being much perplexed to know what to do. Her sojourn at Nott^m & attendance at St James's have been of great service to her & her hopes & wishes rise from beyond this world. She therefore sought divine direction for her future path when her engagement with the little Franklins ceased for when the little boy was old enough to go to school the sister was to be with Mr & Mrs W Burnside at Aspley. Mrs Gordon thought then of taking a few pupils, but in this country it is easier to wish for them than to obtain & the few she had hardly paid her expenses & her health was so much affected by the great exertions she was obliged to make that her medical man advised her to give up her present plans. If she could have had a sufficient number of day boarders she might have done better, but there are so many schools in Nottingham that she did not get any tho' she might have succeeded in time. Her doctor wished her to take gentlemen to board with her but she dreaded this fearing she might have a turbulent one & therefore accepted the offer of Miss Charlton of Chilwell, who is an orphan to keep her house & be a sort of chaperone for her as she is only about 19 years of age. She went there in Feb^y or March last & I hear is very comfortable. She spent a day with us on her way from Newark just before she went there. They are not at Chilwell, but at Risley, near Derby & are not to go to Chilwell till the brother is of age. Her son is at Reading with an attorney & I hope is now quite steady but has delicate health. Poor Mrs G would give

something to have the prospect of one day being able to have a little cottage & have her son's company. I do not wonder

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at it for she now begins to feel herself not so young as she was, however I think she is quite willing to be ordered by her Heavenly director. Dr Hutchinson's marriage wh{ich} you notice in your letter took place only about a couple of years ago & his wife has produced a son & heir. He has a good deal of practice, as his manners please generally, & he has the faculty of making people believe he is very clever, but he isn't a favourite with Edw^d. He has read Mr Earle, which he thought very amusing & enquired when I saw him, why William did not publish. Charlotte Clay is married to a Mr Dawson, some of whose family you may remember to have ^{seen} staying often with the Miss Clay's. The young man she has married is respectable but her friends were displeased with the connection because his occupation is not thought equal to her sta[tus] in life. He [is] a tidewaiter at Liverpool. They [*paper torn- have*] been with their little girl to stay at Miss Clay's this summer when I saw Mrs Dawson several times & she made many enquiries after you. We have seen little of Mary Watson lately for as she has long since left school she goes from home a good deal with her Aunt Mary who travels as much as ever. She is rather deformed but is sensible & unaffected & seems a well disposed girl. She has been for the last year & more in Devonshire & at Leamington. The Aunts have left Westhorpe for the present as Mary wishes to let her ^{house there} if possible, so they have taken a small house in Easthorpe next to the one Mrs Plumpton occupied. Miss Jacob is still our pupil but though very clever I cannot say she does justice either to her talents or her teachers. I wish she belonged to your friend Capt Jacobs. Her aunt is a good ^{deal} improved & is very civil to me but still she is not like the dear Plumptons or M. Browne. Have you heard that our Mrs Hodgkins

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(the eldest Miss Plumpton) has bid adieu to this lower world. Tho' so very stout looking, she died of a rapid decline last winter & has left poor Fanny to be a daughter to the Plumptons. She is grown a very pleasing girl & very amiable tho' at present not decidedly religious. She will I fear lose all her property; for the little her Father left is now in Chancery, and therefore there is little chance of her receiving anything. Her good for nothing brother is in the Isle of Man still & has just married again. He has chosen a young lady without any fortune of 18 years of age to be mother of

his four children the eldest of whom is ten. The Wylde's would gladly take the children but he will not allow them: he will hardly consent to their being here on a visit. The Wylde's are not I think quite so gay as formerly I am sure they have had sorrows enough to sober them, for besides all the children they have lost, the two sons who are now grown up do not turn out well. They did not acquit themselves well at college & they have hardly fixed upon any profession or way of life. John wished to go into the army but he is now too old to enter & therefore goes to the Bank & I should think if he is wise he will continue there. As to Robert I do not

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know what he is to do. Ennias[?] is very sensible & superior to any excepting Mrs Hodgkinson. She has been diligent of late years in attending a clothing charity for selling things to the poor which has been held for twelve weeks in a year. Our neighbour Miss Fowler superintended for two or three

years but she was then unwilling to tye[sic] herself down to it so now Mrs Warrick[sic] & Ennias manage for Sutton Barrow still continue a favourite tho' we do not see much of her & her ideas are those of the old school, but I always love her for her affection to our dear mother. I have seen her today when she came to invite me & some of the children to drink tea there ^{tomorrow} to meet the Faulkners who are staying with her, Fanny & the youngest girl. She told me Philip had had a letter from William. I think one sheet more will finish my gossip therefore goodnight dearest upon this

With my & my dear Husband's love

I remain

Your affectionate sister

C Heathcote