

WILLIAMS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

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Southwell, Oct 17th 1833

My Dearest Jane,

Since I finished my last scrawl I have paid my visit to Sutton Barrow & met Fanny Falkner and her youngest sister Lucy Elizth. Fanny has for some years been in a deplorable state of health & was supposed to have a spinal complaint, but a brother of Mrs Machin's who is an eminent surgeon saw her & entirely changed the treatment of her complaint & has been the happy means of restoring her. I believe she is much improved by her illness & I hope her beauty which is quite as striking as formerly may not ^{again} be a snare to her. I think I have mentioned all those you enquired after excepting the Whites. Amelia is still near Liverpool with Mr Walker where she has been above six years & is more & more respected. Elizth married her cousin who is in the Customs House with so small an income that ^{Elizth} having now two children & indifferent health I feel inclined to wish she had married differently. Her husband is not equal to herself in abilities & therefore I fear altogether she is not so happy as we wish her to be. She now lives at Islington but as the house is a long walk from John's I did not see her last summer. Then Miss Anne succeeded Elizth at Lord Lifford's and last year spent her holiday with her brothers in Dublin, where she was introduced to the gentleman, with whom one of her brothers was placed when he first went to Ireland & being a most respectable man the brothers were not a little pleased to observe he was very attentive to Anne; in process of time made her an offer & in six months after her introduction to him she became his wife. He is a widower with four children, but as she was obliged to teach, she may as well instruct her husband's as other persons' children: she was 27 years of age & he 40.

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His name is Pollok, he is a Scotchman but he lives near Dublin. Maria the youngest is as great a favourite of mine as the older ones: she is at Mansfield with the Brodhursts for Miss B has long been in a helpless state & as Mrs B is dead they wanted someone to manage their house etc & Mr Brodhurst is very fond of Maria & they treat her as a relative. Tho' you have not mentioned the Cockerills in your last I shall occupy your time as few minutes with them. Perhaps I might tell you last that their dear mother had requested we would take them to board here when they were not visiting their friends & they came to us two years ago for six weeks only for at the expiration of that time they began a round of visits to their friends. Anne you remember had long ago been engaged to Mr Charles Brookfield tho' as his parents did not approve of the match, Mrs Cockerill did not think it right to encourage it, but as Anne was now of age she could not be prevented if she chose to marry him & on this ground her uncle would no longer oppose her wish, tho' he did not wish them to marry at present as their means would be very small & Anne was not likely to be the best manager. Lucy had been permitted to have an admirer only two years older than herself, a young man who was in the Leeds manufactory, of good property, connections & principles. This therefore seemed very promising & you may imagine I was somewhat surprised when about seven months after they left our house, Anne wrote me word she was to be married in a fortnight by her uncle's full consent & that Lucy was no ^{longer} looking forward to marrying her lover for she had found him to

be guilty of great deceit towards her & she had broken off the engagement; & she was therefore to live with Anne in London for Mr Brookfield is in an attorney's office there. This marriage took place last month twelvemonth & at the beginning of this year I heard that Lucy was at the point of marrying a Mr Garner, a Staffordshire man,

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whose family they had for many years been acquainted with but as the last young man had not long been disposed of some of her friends blamed her for so soon uniting herself to another, I fear she has been rather foolish, but as she is a very captivating person, she stood the more in need of a friend & she was now an orphan. She was married last March & her husband is a surgeon beginning to practise in London. Poor high-spirited Anne is I think a good deal subdued. She is in lodgings because they cannot afford to keep house & has miscarried twice, but I hear that Lucy is likely to become a mother. They both walked a considerable distance to see us at Holloway last summer & were most affectionate. I think all they will have to struggle with in the world, will be of great service to them, for nothing but real suffering will subdue their high spirits. The eldest son Thomas did very well at college but we hear through other quarters that ^{he} is one of the gayest young men in Cambridge! How often is this the case. I think it proceeds from [page torn] keeping young people under so much restraint that when they are freed from a parent's control there is a no vice which they do not fall into. At least I think religious parents go to extremes with regard to amusements, but not in regular discipline for in this I think they are often very deficient. When we were last in Town we left a few more newspapers for you & four little dolls with some clothes which were all given by Miss Sarah Dodsly, one of our very nice pupils from Mansfield who was on a visit to us some months ago. You may give two of them to your dear daughter with a share of the clothing, the other two for Marianne's little ones & as we omitted putting tickets upon them you must settle the division yourselves also ~~with~~ ^{divide} another trifle or two in the box. I am sorry neither of you mentioned the Pigot's name

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for they have taken a very lively interest in your affairs. Mrs J. Becher was pleased by your mentioning her & she has brought me two frocks & promises some things more. The little prayer book you ask for I have made a present of to myself but I have begun making a copy of it for you which you are to have the next opportunity. I shall be anxious to hear how the schools flourish without Mr Brown, how you continue to approve of this consul, & what his office is & where he is placed. I am glad William has mentioned Mr Earle, for his book

having been read here as well as the Edinburg Review. I am glad to have something from you as an assurance tho' I could have contradicted all the statements before from the letters already received. I beg you will tell me more particularly about your children, you have been very stingy to me lately. Is Miss Williams the older sister satisfied with her new residence or has she discovered there are discomforts every where. I long to see

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you tho' i must be content for the present to hear from you which I hope we shall again do very soon
& then when our course is run I hope we shall meet without sin & sorrow. How are your natives,
David & Martha Malthouse etc

Receive our best love for yourself and Will & your four dear children, believe me ever your affection
sister

C. Heathcote