

Southwell, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1835

My Dearest Jane,

Having but ill complied with your request I shall try to write a few more lines. As Jane Holland has not yet sent home two little frocks, one for you which I hope will be useful. Our good friend M. Barnard has brought a pretty little pinafore for you as well as a trifle from one of her pupils, a little slipper, containing a thimble above a century old soul {sole} by Miss Bagaby now Mrs James Heath. She sent <sup>it</sup> to me that I might let you have it. You have not been surprised that I did not tell you any Southwell news in my first letter, but I will try to do what I can in that way. William may not have heard that his good friend Philip Falkner has been considered in a very delicate state and has been sent to Hastings to pass the winter having a tendency to decline. One of his young brothers, I think Henry, lately died and his sister Anne has also lately become the wife of Mr John Oakes of Aston. Fanny Falkner is now in good health & is a well disposed young woman less given to admiration than she was, but she is still single. Mr Ric<sup>d</sup> Falkner the schoolmaster after

being obliged to give up all to his creditors & living in various places ever since & begging in all directions from the Duke of Gloucester downwards is again come to this place & has taken a small cottage at the top of Moor Lane which was the only one then with sash windows, a house which we once thought of for Mrs Gordon, do you remember it, they are going on indifferently having only £100 a year but without the economising requisite they are therefore not respected having wherever they have been some bills which they could not pay. I must next mention Mr Forster who has lately that is last Aug<sup>st</sup> taken to himself a new wife, a Miss Harding of Burlington whom he met with in this neighbourhood. This is a clever young woman <sup>of 22 or 23</sup> but being only nine years older than Julia, who, you know, has been spoilt from her youth upwards, I fear there is not much prospect of comfort. Julia & Jane come to school but as the elder has had such bad management at home & elsewhere she is considered anything but an agreeable girl. She is very clever, one of the quickest girls I ever met <sup>with</sup> but also her amiable feelings have not been called forth but as you may suppose she has been treated in a very strange manner. After her mother's death, she was put at the head of affairs at eleven years of age: she of course felt of consequence, and now rebels at having so young a woman put over her, & her father has indulged her formerly to so great a degree that now he does not correct her, except occa-

-sionally. For a trifle he will make a great rout, but things of the first importance he passes over. I proposed taking her as a boarder for a mere trifle in order to try to do her some good, but as this would cost him a very few extra pounds, he will not & so poor Julia is on the road to ruin I fear, unless it should please God to turn her heart. She is also a great admirer of the young gentlemen & there are great complaints of her in this way, but I must do her the justice to say she behaves very

well at school, which causes me to think that if her parents had taken the trouble to attempt training her properly she would have been very different. I therefore pity her & blame her Father.

Sept 1835. Last May I received your dear letter giving very indifferent news of you and on this account I must say I much regretted the proposed change of abode, for I think you require being near Marianne, and those who have not such delicate health ought to go to the new station. I am grieved at your continued sufferings, for I have since heard from Maria that you are still in a poor way. I hope before it is too late you will think that your duty requires you to be quiet and I am better pleased that you should go to Waitmato [sic] though farther off. How thankful we ought to be that dear Marianne's life is continued to her to train up her ten children. I have not written to her & I have not lately had pleasure in writing or doing anything. Mrs John Becher has again brought a host of things for your little Mary to give away but one dark frock with short sleeves she intended for

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Mary herself and a bordered apron for Maria Coldham whom she seems to remember very well. Mrs Becher and Miss Pigot have more interest about you all than any people here. Young John Becher, who is now a clergyman & has the curacy of Bleasby and conducts himself with great propriety, jokes his mother

continually about New Zealand. I therefore took upon myself to ask for a little missionary subscription & obtained 5/ from him & 5/ from Mary Becher, the first I have rec<sup>d</sup> something from any of that family & probably the first they have ever given. I will tell you on another sheet more of any intercourse with this family with whom we were at

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one time rather distant but since we came to this house we have been on very good terms for Mr Bucher bought part of the ground here & we have rented a small part of [sic] him.

Yours affec<sup>ately</sup>

C. Heathcote