

Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton'

15th July, 1829

My dear George,

I know Papa has been writing to you and I believe he has told you how much we have been delighted by seeing your intelligent friend, Mr. Dawson. He was so good as to spend two mornings with us during our stay in London. From him we gained more information than we possibly could by letter in a twelve month. The little drawings you made of your dwelling gave us an excellent idea of it, and perhaps you will be impressed to find that I have not only seen the Grandilla, but tasted its fruit and think it more pleasing to the eye than the palate. It was growing in great perfection at Lord Harewoods', where we spent some days last year, when we were touring in the North. In your last letter you talked of building, which will no doubt add much to your comfort. I hope you have not forgotten the light closet which you always threatened to have as your little boy is such a Hercules, it may be prudent to prepare it. Mr. Dawson told us he was exactly like you. He likewise amused us by saying he should know me anywhere to be your sister. I never discovered much resemblance between us, but was of course flattered by his remark. Everything here is going on as usual – Henny and Charles are home for their holidays, the latter quite recovered from the severe illness he had last winter, and he has grown very tall. Henny still creeps on, but she has not made the shoot I expected from her residence at Brighton. However, she is very much improved both in her education and appearance, and likes her abode there very much. The married ladies are quite well and all their children.

Louisa and Mr. Knatchbull and their children are coming to visit us in about a fortnight. I think I told you in my former letter that ... has the Forest. He has taken a very pretty house from Mr. Sam Heathcote, at Banshaw, that he has just prepared? , or I may say rebuilt. It is much too good for a bachelor, and I can only say that I hope he will soon find a partner to enjoy it with him. He is now there, as he is busily engaged in preparing a kennel. If you know anything of Jem I shall be glad if you will mention it, as poor Jenny Bailey is naturally anxious about her daughter. She is a right-thinking woman and has no patience with them for their behaviour. That worthy member of society, Jack Barnes, has been in prison for some time for stealing Mr. Penruddocke's swans. Assisted by one of the Lovells, they sold them to Mr. Gordon's keeper, who seems to be as great a rogue as themselves.

I must not forget to tell Margaret there never was so much music known as this year in London, there being both Sontay and Malabran Garcia, two first-rate female singers. There are several beautiful operas, to hear them sing their duets together was the greatest musical treat I ever heard. They evidently took pride in it themselves, and certainly their voices never appeared to greater advantage. A coat from Mr. Willis, some cambric muslin and baptiste was forwarded to you by the ship William about three weeks ago, which I hope you will receive safe. With kind love to you and Margaret.

Your affectionate sister,

Mary Ann Wyndham