

Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton' 9th October, 1827

My Dear George,

I fear when you see the date of the letter you will think I have not been as good as my word. I found great difficulty in discovering the best method of sending letters to you, but Barclay Portman, who was staying with us last week has been so good as to write to Mr. Stanley, who is Under Secretary to the Colonial Office, and a very great friend of his, to beg he will forward our letters to you. This is a delightful plan, and prevents all difficulties about postage, etc. We have been anxiously expecting to receive the letter you promised us from the Madeiras, but we hope and trust that you and Margaret have not suffered much from seasickness, and by this time you will have completed nearly half your voyage. I likewise must not forget poor Maria and Jem. I met Old Joe a few days since, who asked most anxiously if we had yet heard from you. I comforted him by promising to let him know directly we received any intelligence.

William and his whole establishment, horses and dogs, has taken possession of the Manor House at Hungerford. He spent two days with us last week. He had then killed six brace of foxes.

We have all been very much distressed at a sad accident which happened to Mrs. Penruddocke. She was taking an airing in a gig, which is her favourite carriage, when opposite Brincombe Church, the horse began to kick most violently, in consequence of the rein getting under his tail. Unfortunately, the coachman, on stooping forward to disengage it, was thrown out by a violent jerk, and considerably stunned by his fall. Poor Mrs. Penruddocke became very frightened, and she either jumped or was thrown out of the gig – she cannot tell which, for she lost all recollection; but in her fall her leg was broken just above the ankle. The fracture was considered a very bad one, but fortunately a farmer, who had heard of the accident, rode off to Compton. Mr. Coates, who was attending Mr. Penruddocke, was at that moment getting on his horse, and he was with her twenty minutes after the accident happened,, set her leg, took her home in the barouche, which was sent for, and never left her till she was properly placed in bed. From having assistance so soon, her leg never swelled at all, and it is quite extraordinary how quickly she has recovered. She now lies on the sofa all day, but seems a little annoyed at the idea of having a stiff ankle; but as her dancing days are past, that is not of much consequence, and if she recovers the use of it sufficiently to walk about, she will no doubt feel very grateful. I must not forget to tell you what excellent sport the gentleman had partridge shooting.

There were four guns, Mr. Sandy's, Mr. Oddy's, Papa's and John's. They bagged 104 braces in the first three days. John, during the fortnight he was home from Eton, bagged 50 1/2 brace. Your predictions seemed likely to be verified; you always said he would shoot well. The shooting has not been followed up in the same way since the beginning of September, but the birds are very plentiful, and they have had excellent sport.

I must not forget to tell you we like Lady Emma Portman very much; she is a very pleasing and unaffected young woman.

Your affectionate sister,

Mary Ann Wyndham