

## Dinton - Dalwood Letters

Burlington Hotel, July 1838

My dear Margaret,

As Papa has written to George, I think I had better write to you, I shall send it by Mr. Wilkinson, who expects to sail on Sunday morning; he has been with us this morning, and hopes to see you in November.

Papa has been enquiring this morning about boring for water of a man who was advertising in the newspaper. I never met with anyone who knew anything about it; it seems rather expensive, I think. Tools for the first 100 feet being £30, and £20 for every additional 100 feet, and tubes for conveying the water 3/- per foot. It would be very little use to send to Australia anything short of 300 feet. It would be a great thing for you to command the large quantities of water the man in the prospectus talks about.

My visit to London has now been caused by Papa's being very unwell and being determined to come here to finish up his business. I said I could not let him go without me; however, he rallied very much from the time he left Dinton, and bore the journey very well, so I begin to hope there will be no bad consequences from it, but I am grown so nervous about him, and he made himself worse by thinking ill of himself, and that he should not be able to come if he delayed it. William is with us, and Papa's spirits are always better when he is about with him. It is Papa's intention that William and his family should come to Dinton. They are to come now very shortly; William and Ellen are to be master and mistress. This is much the best arrangement that could be made, for only think how lonely Papa, Henrietta and myself should have felt in that great house when Frances and John provide for themselves. We see every day that as the various families increase the respective heads are naturally wanted at home, therefore cannot come so frequently to see their relations, and Papa daily grows fonder of Dinton, or at least dislikes the exertion of moving.

Papa's grandchildren now are 32 in number. Twenty four are boys. I hope your Alward has recovered; if you think it is the heat that disagrees with him, pray send him to some cooler place before he falters next summer. You will find it not a bad plan, and you may thus avoid serious illness.

Mr. Codrington is going to hunt the New Forest this winter. It is a place he has always much abused, so everyone has a laugh about it now and quiz on the change of his ideas. Poor Tishy does not like the movement at all; says she would not object if she thought it would end with one season, but she wants a regular and settled home that she will consider her own, and make to her taste. Louisa is in much the same predicament, I think. Mr. Knatchbull would like to go back into Oxford and live, but then he would find all his old friends dispersed and gone.

Alexander and his family are at Dinton whilst they put Sedgemoor in order.

I have had a long visit from Mr. Penruddocke. He grows very old, I think, and other people begin to think so now. He has cut a beautiful set of new teeth, but malheureusement they impede his speech so much that it is with the greatest difficulty you can make out what he says.



Papa has gone to the City today to settle and arrange our affairs, as Mama's Executor. I shall be very glad when all this business is done, it worries Papa so much, and naturally makes him very melancholy.

There are no tidings of the William Nicholls, and wool, at present, is very high, so as soon as she comes in the better. Wheat is also on the rise, wherefore no-one can think, for the crops never promised better, though it may be very thin on the ground. The Potato crop is abundant, as well as the Barley and Oats.

We shall be delighted when we receive a barrel of George's wine. I expect in a very few years some will be fit for export.

July 1838 - Great Aunt Ella. Cont.

Papa has had a letter from Charlie announcing his safe arrival at Montreal. He had a long passage of six weeks and three days, but was well. He was glad they did not stop at Quebec, as he said it is the worst place he ever saw, but he likes the appearance of the country, which is flat. He does not expect to have anything to do there. The Great Western steamship has almost reduced the voyage to America to a certainty both there and back to one fortnight. It is a British speculation, but London and Liverpool have followed this example.

Louisa desires me to tell you that if Alward outgrows his strength you had better send him at once to England. We could manage to take care of him amongst us, and I dare say a few years would strengthen him amazingly.

I have entirely forgotten the grand doings of the Coronation. We were here at the time of it, but did not go to the abbey. There was no banquet in Westminster Hall, which was much found fault with, but the day passed off extremely well, and not one accident was heard of.

The myriads of people that lined the streets through which the procession passed was extraordinary. It appeared as if all England had come to London for the occasion; the areas throughout the line were converted into raised seats and balconies and verandahs thrown out for general accommodation.

Henrietta and I and Aunt Heathcote were taken by Mr. Bennet to the Athenaeum in Pall Mall, and it corners down on what is now Carlton Terrace, fronting Wiltery Place, so we had a great extent of view, and I can assure you I was much more pleased than I expected to be, when the poor young Queen made her appearance in her state coach; there was a general cheer from the multitude, amidst bands playing 'God Save The Queen', and the bells of St. Martin's ringing. All the members of the Royal family were cheered, and that's very much for London, but the grand noise was reserved for Her Majesty. It was a universal remark that there had never been so good humoured a mob.

Papa amused himself by moving in it, and got under the National Gallery to watch the procession down Charing Cross to Parliament Street, and he said the enthusiasm and good humour exceeded anything he could imagine. I could not but reflect on what the queen would do should the tide of popular favour turn against her; as it is, she has only met with smiles. She has not a Regal appearance, but is small and a bad figure, very fair, like the bust of George III. She has prominent and very blue eyes, and looks very good-humoured. She seems fond of dancing, for she has given a number of balls this spring, and dances at them, at which some people are greatly shocked, and there is want of dignity in such proceedings, forgetting that they were once young themselves.

I am glad Alward was pleased with his watch, and hopes soon he will be pleased with his gun. George complains of the labourers; an immense number have left our neighbourhood this year, and I think many are inclined to try their fortune. But, though government will give them a free passage if married, or if a single sister will accompany them, there is always a difficulty about the outfit, as they have no funds for that. Therefore the farmers can oppose their going if they want their assistance, and the farmers, who can see that if many go labour will increase in value. At present in Wiltshire 7/- a week is certainly the highest average price that a farm labourer can obtain, and a shilling is generally deducted for house rent. One thing I observe it is not generally the best workmen that wish to go, but men who are not altogether perfectly trustworthy.

Alward's picture has reached us this afternoon. I can see a family likeness in it; indeed, the upper part of the face is like George's, Charles's, poor Mary Ann's, and William's eldest boy.

I am your affectionate sister,

Ella Wyndham