

17. 2681
Athens 10th July. 1866.

My dear Dr Hill,

We rec'd your most welcome letter on Saturday evening, and I cannot let the Mail go today without thanking you for it, — although I feel somewhat saddened by the very sudden death of a cousin of Mr. Kalopothakes, who was to him like a brother. Our man just returned from the church, where he pronounced the funeral discourse.

Perhaps you remember that lame man, Demetrius, who has been in Athens so much. He was the Postmaster here & a most excellent, intelligent & as we hope truly Xn. man, & the whole community mourns him. My husband was summoned to him at midnight & as he has had no rest since, he is now trying to sleep. He leaves a wife & little child & a blind father about ninety years old. — So you see we are having varied experiences here, and so it must ever be in this world!

Your beautiful suggestions of hymns helped to furnish me with many good

thoughts for the Sab^o.; - so that you were
my "minister" literally, although I
could not enjoy as I would have liked,
your twilight lecture on that evening.

Then, however, we had certainly not
an idle day. At nine in the morning
I had a gathering of foreign children,
in my covered terrace, besides several
parents & friends, altogether about twenty.

Those who knew how, read in turn a
Chap. of the Bible, which I explained &
talked familiarly about as we went along.
Then we sang some of those little hymns
of Dr. Pizzo, "Eja Eja" & "Eja Eja
pudica" - and I described to them how
I heard them sung by the children of Mrs.
Hill's school in Athens, at their examinations.

The teacher of the girls' school here, who with
her mother was present, was it seems
brought up in your school. She was so
pleased, that she is now very anxious
to have her scholars learn the same for
their exercises, which come off in a week
or two, so I have offered to go to her school
a few times & sing with them, until they

learn them, which she accepted with great pleasure. — At ten o'clock we went below, when my husband had his regular Sunday morning exercise of explaining a chapter in the Bible, with prayer & singing, — at which there were twenty-five present — among others a priest. Then not only in the evening, but on every evening we have a large number of people present, who knowing that we have family worship at such an hour, come in without being invited. This is particularly what pleases me here, there seems such an eager desire of pleasure in hearing the word of God, — they seem to feel, more than others, their need of having some one to instruct them, & thus without any effort, we have daily opportunities of teaching the word of God.

Besides this, my husband is physician & surgeon-general to the country around. There is a government physician here, but the poor who want advice & medicine grate are very glad to come to him, & they come from distant villages at all hours & seasons. so that really his

time is as fully occupied as in others
& I see him about as little - for all this,
& his literary pursuits, he carries on Down
stairs, while my territory is above.

We are seriously talking of enlarging
our premises, before another year, so that
we may have a guest-chamber which
we hope to persuade dear Mrs. Hill
to use, as well as other of our friends -
You must not talk of the "heavenly
rest" alone. Sweet as that will be, I hope
there are many seasons of pilgrim
rest, yet before you - and I have often
thought since I came, how much Mrs. H.
at least would enjoy this place - I am
not quite so sure about you. I fear such
an entire cutting off from the busy world
would not long subvert your active mind &
habits. But Mrs. Hill & I, would "take sweet
counsel together" & plan out great schemes
of benevolence! It is the chief thing I
lack here, a female friend, for my husband
is often too busy to give all his evenings
to the trance. So I have only the Stars
for companions. But such a horizon! -

Tell Mr. Merlin that I shall outdo him in "Observations"!

As to the weather, from what you suggest as to the various forms of torture people undergo in Athens, I think the heat must have exceeded ours - yet here you about a week, say from about the 24th it has been hot enough! I have never however seen the thermometer higher than 86° while the average of those days was 84° Since yesterday however there has been quite a change, & today we are having most charming showers. We went last evening for our first sea bath - a half hour's ride on mules, & rather a steep descent, you are here about six hundred feet above the sea - We enjoyed it exceedingly, but either that or the change in the weather, has made Daphne quite unwell to day. It has not amounted to fever however - Minnie had a slight attack once, soon after we came, but it was from too much exposure to the night air. I hope sincerely that we have left the fever

behind with the dust of Athens!
In in such a stony, unproductive
soil, one seems about as impossible
as the other. But instead of going on
thus, with so much about ourselves,
which I fear you will find very un-
interesting (which at least you will not be
tempted to show to others, as you did very
last!) I must thank you for your very
kind letter, enclosing Mr. Nicholson's, rec'd
soon after I had sent you mine. I need
not say how much pleasure all your
items of Athenian news gave to us, exiles!
The doings, or non-doings even, of our
little circle of friends, & the more stirring
political events, with Lord Grenville's
visit to Athens, are subjects of which
we hope yet to hear more. Is it not
well that my sister did not wait for
Mr. Nicholson as an escort? He says
that he may remain in the East two
months, ^{more} from the time he wrote, I had
a long & very satisfactory letter from
her, giving me, as I suppose she
did you, a full account of her journey.

Which thanks to our Heavenly Father
all turned out right in the end.

Much as I would like to have her here,
I cannot but feel glad that she is
enjoying things so much more to her
taste - Her beautiful scenery is an
offset to a finer picture than mine -
but I am content, as well as she!

Give much love to Bessie & tell her
that I had fully intended enclosing
a note for her, but the occasion of which
I spoke, has taken up much of the day.
Love also to dear Miss Frederica, who
I fear not being of your "Salamander"
temperament, has not passed unscathed
through this fiery weather. I will not
send a special message to Mrs. Hill,
for I intend this letter for her jointly with
yourself. My good husband intended
a separate acknowledgment of your last,
but I very much fear that a violent
migraine, the effect of the day's excite-
ment, will prevent him this time -
& you must imagine this his letter,
although it is not his habit to talk so much

about himself & his own doings, as I do!
I have written lately to almost all my
friends in Athens, so I shall only send love
in a general way to all who inquire for me
Minnie sends love & kisses to all & es-
pecially Bessie.

Very affly & sincerely yours
M. H. Kales & others.

American and
family corres-
pondence