

26 Hertford St.

June 5. 1857.

Thy so beloved m<sup>y</sup> Dicks<sup>on</sup>.

Dear Mr. Will.

It was this morning that I received your startling letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> ultimo. I need not tell you that the contents proved a great shock to me, and have spread a gloom over the second day of my return to England. I have read your letter two or three times, and yet feel hardly able to realise it. - I cannot bear to think of the deep affliction into which it ~~must have~~ thrown the so sudden and so distressing death of poor Mrs. Dickson must have thrown you all, but especially her poor lonely husband. - I have written to him and done my best to speak comfort to him though I fear my feeble efforts can be productive of but little result. The account you give me is to me irrefragable - I cannot imagine that any one so good and gentle as she was could have found any sin to make her deathbed uncomfortable. She has always been so simple minded, and so happy, that it is difficult to believe she could have had any thing weighing on her conscience - Whenever

Mr. Lambros has  
written to forward  
me all letters from  
my friends in  
Athens

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I have talked to her she has always seemed to have been so completely actuated by good and religious motives that I declare I cannot believe her to have been any thing else than a true Christian. - And yet, what a death bed! I had later a letter from Mr. Purkin, and a long one from Lambert on the same subject. Please thank them both for me when you see them, and tell them I am sorry this Post hour will not admit of my answering them till next week. - After Dickson and Cornina, no one will feel the loss of Mrs. Dickson so much as poor Miss King, for she was indeed a dear friend to her, and I hardly know where she will replace her. - In so small a circle as yours at Athens such a loss does indeed leave a sad blank - I must really thank you for writing me so kind a letter though also on so melancholy a subject. - Did you get mine which I wrote you from the Lake Maggiore? I hope you will often - that is from time to time, when you have not better employment, send me a few lines of home gossip - any thing

which you think may interest me. It is so nice to have news from friends and scenes with whom one has been so long acquainted. I have found all my friends here well in good health, and longing to welcome me after so long an absence. - I arrived here late at night ~~the~~ on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Every one is complaining of the heat, though I confess I have not yet felt it. - Today some one pointed upwards and asked me to admire the dark blue sky: - After the Altic sky, it looked however any thing but admirable. In fact it always looks as though it might easily rain in another half hour. - This morning about 9 my hands were quite cold, but whether it was the natural effect of the climate, or the effects of your letter I am not sure. -

I am so afraid to be too late for the post, that I shall not venture to turn this page. - So please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Nile and Miss Baldwin (I cannot add the name of your niece as I have only heard of her arrival today) and believe me,

faithfully yours  
Edmund South

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Rec<sup>d</sup> June 13. 1857

And. " 14.

Rev. J. A. Hill. D. D.

yc & Address

A. Hancock