

Jan 24

Ed. 225  
Atherstone Jan 24

This is my birth day, and as I cannot receive the good wishes of my Athenian friends, I am greatly disposed to sit down & write to them - by way of being in <sup>some</sup> sort in relation with them - though I am somewhat busy having a house full of company & some of the servants ill -

I remember reading somewhere a remark which has been strongly in my mind all morning (for a birth day is to me, as to all who think at all, a very solemn festival - a sort of halting place between the past & the future) - it is something to this effect: "in going through life, I feel myself reading a book by the best of all Authors, many of the incidents as we advance, surprise and disappoint us - but knowing that the whole is on a plan which could not have been improved, we feel certain that all shall turn out right and best in the end." I think there is so much truth in this quaint idea that it takes my fancy amazingly - and believe that you will like it too.

I have not written to you since the new year began so thus tardy I must send you good wishes for all that is to come of it - as for public affairs in Greece one hardly knows what to hope or wish for - I was glad to see in the Papers the birth of Suitbold's Son - has it been received with any joy in Greece? - or are people too much out of countenance with the King to wish for a continuance of the Race? -

I have not heard or seen any thing of that Mrs. Roberts since I wrote last to you - I do not know any one belonging to her - or who is acquainted with her. I should much like to make out something about her before one throws out any feelings about her going to Greece - I mean to write to Frederica about it - I have heard nothing from her for some time past. -

I hope Mr. Hill will read the account of the squabbles in the Church here, which the Bishops of Exeter's attempting to enforce the Rubric has brought to such a crisis that it is hard to say how the matter will end, the Archbishop of Canterbury's letter only shows how afraid he is to do any thing, but something the Bishops must do.

or the whole fabric of Church Government will crumble away beneath their feet. while they indignantly repulse the interference of the State to settle the differences by Act of Parliament.

I have sent by the post some <sup>number of</sup> Punch, please send them on to Mr. Mandeville to whose boys I have promised them. though I don't think that they are likely to understand one half of the comical things & allusions in them but perhaps the pictures will suffice to please them.

We have been staying very idly here, the weather has been unusually damp & gloomy, that seems to chill the very marrow in my bones, and hang a weight of lead on my spirits. but as soon as the Snowdrops and Hepatica appear I shall brighten up again. we are going for 10 days to visit some of our relations in the neighbourhood of Warwick who live on a dryer Soil.

I was at Brighton before I was, & took occasion while there to go to see the Hildner's little girl who is at the Goversess Institution there. perhaps when Mr. Hill writes to his Brother Hildner he will mention this. She was looking very well & healthy complained of nothing but chilblains - she assured me that she was happy & was very kindly treated. I then took the Lady who directs the establishment aside & questioned her as to her improvement. She said that she was going on very satisfactorily, that much improvement was visible in her character that she was very low in the School - but that this was partly owing to the strict orders of the Medical attendant that she should not be made to apply too much there was such extreme languor of constitution about her from having lived so long in a warm climate, so that rapid progress in acquirements must not be looked to by her friends. The little girl seemed rejoiced to see me. & loved to hear about our visit to Lyceum & meeting Mr. Hill there. The School is a good one, though it seems to me there is a little want of judgement about the Sabbath. it is not made a happy day but an austere & silent one. The situation is most healthy & they have the best Masters & Mr. Ehot. the Clergyman takes a cordial interest in them.

at present however I don't think there has been a very successful result as far as turning out good Governesses, the parents take them away too soon they are so impatient to have them begin to gain something

Mr. Cuyper who you remember this last Spring at Athens. is now staying with us so we talk of Greece without sad. Your old friend Mr. David Dundas was ~~not~~ also at our Neighbour's on the hill Mr. Dugdale's very lately we were invited to meet him he is very agreeable & interested himself a good deal about poor Greece which few seem to do. even of those who have been there - it is a town made, a curiosity seen & so there is an end of it —

I shall hope your next letter will give me an account of poor Mrs. Muller. who I hear is not likely to live. it is sad the afflictions of her family her Father  
her Brother in law.

and how herself likely to follow them there are but few survivors left to mourn these losses

What is doing at the library & how is poor Ribaldo getting on with his contributions of books. I want very much to hear also of the Priests College whether they are making any real Education there. & if they have any promising pupils — I don't fancy that you will have many visitors this winter & Spring the tide is setting another way —

the minister to the ...  
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his ...  
Chin ...  
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France  
Via Marseilles  
Paris  
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