

Southwick
Sunderland
Feb 16. 1852

You have heard
of Captain Putter
is the names
to this ward.

Dear Sir,

Looking to the date of this letter & considering the time
we parted from your hospitable roof, you will perhaps
at first scarcely understand when I tell you that I
take the first opportunity in my power of writing to you
from England.
But so it is - I thought it would hardly be worth your
trouble to get a letter from us from Glatton, & then during
our hasty trip thro' Italy & France, we had so little time
& were generally so down in the bog, from crowding
many sights into a short space that we could hardly
sit down to a long letter which I intend this to be; besides I
think our agreement was to write to you on our arrival
home. - & as we were too late for the Mail on the 20th of the
month I prepare this in good time for the 20th of the present.
And first I must not forget to tell you how much both
my wife & I feel the great kindness & hospitality we
received from you & Mr. Hill - I am sure we shall never
forget it - & if you come to England, which I much hope
you will, you must both take up your abode with us -
we have not of course your lovely scenery & classic
associations, but still this is not an uninteresting part
of the country - I mentioned your kind message to Mr. Hill
he would like very much to know you, but I don't
think he would venture so far as Athens - The Daochis
& Waldenses, where he is going next year, are the "ultima
Thule" of his wanderings - But I must retrace our

steps, a tittle & gave you a slight sketch from doing after we
left you - we were detained a whole day & night at Syra, waiting
for the Constantinople steamer, & then we got into Lamerione
which detained us, much to our disappointment 10 days at
Malta: it was the delay we expected as we spent the time
being pleasantly with the kindly some friends of ours
who like you, received us most kindly, we had a good oppo-
portunity of seeing Malta, which is well worth a visit, tho' after lovely
Athens one is rather difficult to please, we arrived at Naples
about the 17 Dec. & I had unfortunately to pay there at the
Custom House 25^l for the town which we took charge
of for you - I thought it better to pay it - than to leave the town
as you might have had particular reasons for desiring it to
be safely delivered - I made every remonstrance but in
vain - I had exactly the same amt to pay on it again at
Florence but this I got back at the Custom House at Leghorn
by spending 2 days nearly going backwards & forwards to
those abominable Doganas - I have kept the custom House
bill at Naples, as a monument of their rapacity - However we
brought the town safely to London, & my brother delivered it to the
admiral E. P. Mafson Esq; and of P. Jean Esq. of St. Helen - & I hope you
have heard of its safe arrival - We spent only a short time at
Naples but made the most of it - & saw Pompeii Herculaneum
Castellamare Baia Capri Pozzuoli &c. the weather was intensely
cold & cloudy, but we could form some idea of the loveliness of
the scenery - We dined one day with Dr. Stange who told us he be-
lieves every word in Gladstone's pamphlet & that nothing there
is over stated rather the contrary - From Naples to Rome we
went by sea land a long & tedious journey tho' the sea most
interesting from Capri to Forum Appii & the 3 Taverns.
we arrived at Rome just in time to see the sun setting upon
St. Peter - & also ^{groups} ~~groups~~ in the ~~city~~ ^{city} ~~city~~ ^{city}

least of some importance & hungry travellers on dinner, we stop
at the Hotel d'Angleterre & there met Mr Bishop of Bathurst, who heard
that we had come from the inquir^y particularly after you & Mr Hall
& spoke to me in the highest terms of you - He has had much annoyance
at Rome in ecclesiastical matters. a party there have arisen with
which the English Chaplain has joined to disallow & throw off the
authority &c of the Bishop. Schism like this is very much to be
regretted, & especially so in a place like Rome - it seems that
they would allow (!!!) the Bishop to preach & as any other clergyman
but ^{not} to take any part in the service as Bishop - The Bishop seems
to take this conduct much to heart, in fact it had made a great
stir in Rome. He seems an most amiable man. but at present in
very low spirits. We were present of course at all the ceremonies of
Christmas. The sermons novelty & splendour made them interesting
but I cannot understand any man in his senses, becoming a
Romanist by joining after having been present at Roman
ceremonies - for neither in those the officiate nor in the congrega-
tion does there appear to be the very least appearance of
the spiritualit^y of religion. But the treasures of the Vatican are
indeed well worth seeing - Rome is truly the Toy-shop of the world
& then the pictures galleries - one might spend years in them -
We only spent 6 days in ~~the~~ Rome, leaving it on the day
after Christmas day. The Abbé Hamilton, to whom the Wyses
had been kind enough to give us letters was absent from
Rome. but we saw his sister Mrs Savage & she was a dear
old good friend of mine when we were there. They say he
would believe any thing - His story was current at the time about
his Lordship - he asked the General of the Jesuits - if it were true
that the Devil sometimes made a personal appearance in
Japan - The General "olli subidene" as much as to say what a
fool you must ^{be} collect himself, & replied, jenuistically enough
that there was no doubt that

Satan had more power in Heathen countries than in Catholic
ones - We were much pleased with Florence, & would prefer
living there to any place in the continent - We had intended
setting to Paris by Mt Cenis & Lyons - but as the season was too
far advanced we "took ship" - i.e. "stamed" at Bass Selyhorn
for Marseilles touching at Genoa - We remained but a very
short ^{time} at Paris - as I had heard, en route, that my locum tenens
here had been appointed Chaplain to the troops at Weedon, &
of course there was no time to be lost on the road - We arrived
here about the 16th & you can understand that I have found
plenty to do ~~in~~ in my parish & after an absence of nearly
18 mths - our house is most comfortable, (it's not a grand one)
& appears doubly so after the uncomfortable one we had
at Orfi - & we are now, on a very cold evening, sitting round
a good fire of Wall's and Coal - but alas for scenery - the ^{change}
indeed is a great one - from the albanian hills of Orfi, or the
bay of Salamis or Eleusis with you to a series of tall smoking
chimneys - appears doubly dull & dirty to us from the pure
blue we have been accustomed to - however we have much to
be thankful for to the giver of all good for his mercies to us by sea &
Land & for restoring us in health to our friends - I trust He will
give us his blessing & strength to promote his glory with double energy
Pray give both our kindest regards to Mrs Hill (accepting the same
yourself) Mr & Mrs - will write the next time to Mrs Hill, but she
feels this time she will not be in time for the Post as she has
had so much to do in our House &c - remember us also to the
young ladies - may I beg you to give the enclosed to Mrs Green &
Mr & Mrs - I hope you will often write to us - remember me to
Palmer. & now I marvel if you will read thus far in this lengthy
epistle - but if you do you will find that I remain yours most truly
L. May 1841

~~Miss G. J. J. J.~~

via Southampton

E7.832



The Rev^d John Will

Chaplain to the Embassy

Athens

rec^d
March 5.