

Friday Rom. Jan 15th 1863.

Your dear & welcome letter of the 15th Br. came to my hands on Monday last 11th. I was so thankful to feel the chain of communication re-established, for I had begun to fear that what with your own driving & postal delays & storms on the Indurancas. I should not be getting any letters regularly any more. However I seem to get now - thank God. & yesterday I was almost startled by receipt of your letter of the 22nd - 25th Br. - postmarked 26th - in my hands here in Rome on the morning of the 14th Inst. - only 20 days from your dear hands. It came by the Australasian. Happening to catch the messenger boat of Monday night 11th - he had it here in good time yesterday. Maybe I was not happy to get two letters in a week - only the thought that next week I should not have any troubled me. However I must now answer this last one until next week. I pretend to come on Monday. - Mary had not had any letters from home & was wanting to hear. so I read her portions of your letter. Such as she might hear without prejudice or fear of making fun - for I am fully aware of all her propensities & have said to her how & when things about it. She gets an occasional rebuke from me, which hurts I can tell you. In instance I know that she had made fun out of your Mother's visit before I read your yesterday's letter. & impugning her about it. I said in Robert's presence, mind you: / what should I expect if you can make fun of your Mother's & her husband's & her sister's fall. She was a little cut up at it - but I don't care. She ought to be rebuked for such things & nobody rebukes her. Robert & I stop her to that extent. That she has her own way in every thing. & does rough work on her. She is as much in love as he ever was. & she rules him with a rod of iron. & she makes George stand round. as she used to do all the people in her father's house. & as she made you with respect to Miss Isabel. That day shortly after you got home to London I saw a much more unamiable character. - a gentle

a pleasant as she can make herself she could be no friend
of mine. About six days ago she talked of remaining here
in Rome & sending Robert & George to Naples. This was because
she wanted to first with Hately - with whom she is
just as much in love as Robert with herself. - So I thought
I would put a spoke in the wheel as Grandmother says
& the other night when Robert said he was going later than
Robert & George should be doing the sight of Naples, which
Mary and now can go - I would be lonely. I said "why if
you are not going until after Carnival perhaps I will
go down with you - & Miss Tabber & perhaps Hately." He
was delighted - but as soon as "little sister" heard of it
I know how it would affect her. & she immediately
renounced her intention of going down to Naples on
Sunday 17th with Robert & George. To be gone ten or fourteen
days. She keeps her room at the Europa here - while she
is gone for fear she won't get a good when she comes
back. (at least a day) she takes a little woman
with her who has been sewing for her here. to attend
to her & dress her &c. She has been buying lots of things
among them Hattery, Senobia in half size - at 800 dollars
Yesterday Robert gave her a diamond & ruby ring. quite
large - not ^{quite} as mine. but a beautiful one which
she wears on her fore finger. It is fitted out with the
very most elegant diamond & head dress from Madame
Rignon. you ever saw. in fact - she could not do more if
she was Grand Duchess. She has not been very well
lately. & I had to send Diana to her. she has been dreadfully
troubled with hemorrhoids. & constipation. but don't say
any thing about this - for she says "every thing goes with the
heart of a jain. & she says of course every thing I want
you shall have again." - perhaps if she believes this - she will
be a little more careful than she writes & then would
be an advantage. She is better now. One accident has
proved a nine days wound on my foot. by my own
except the one who has to pay for it - poor pill-coddy.
Mary is now the worse for it. nor am I. at least I think

This morning - I have had them all a breakfast of buckwheat
Cakes - golden syrup & beef steak - of which they all partook
with great appetite & gusto. It went off very well. They are
back for me. I have been occupied since with a picture
order to paint the ceiling of my parlour room. ready for
the paper when it comes from America. if those boys, which
I got said in Nov. - will reach here. I expect my things will be
taken by Comptroler. By the bye I found out yesterday
in company with a Mr. Edgerton from New York - who
I met at 3. in the Scotia - crossed the Atlantic in 8 days -
he was exactly 14 days from New York to Rome. having
Saturday & Sunday - to spend in Paris! Pullford & Gunning
was a nor? - well - on board the Scotia - was a party of
people who sat at the Cap^t table among them a Miss
Courad (who by the bye has property in St. Louis. & who has
been in America lately to try & get enough of it to
make a sufficient show to marry an Italian Mar-
quis Cavalletti - a man who has nothing but skin to
be supported in doing nothing -) one day after dinner
some gentlemen at the opposite table to the Cap^t - who
had been having a good dinner & feeling "good" began
to say among themselves the "Star Spangled Banner"
where the people at the Captain's table. Miss Courad
amongst the rest. began to hiss! Thus for you. what
is to be a people without a country - to have no res-
ponsibilities. to go for a punishment - to get let them be
seized by pirates or be wronged abroad & see how soon
they would insist upon being protected by the flag of
that country to which they do honour & allegiance!
But that Cap^t just has been going me backward & forward
safe & quiet than any one else. I did not to you. I
would now see how to speak to him again! These
are the things which make us despised among nations.
There are some tolerably nice Americans here. the worst
among them the Drury Lippincott of Phil^a - & the
Shalluck of Boston. the daughter had been engaged to
a young man. my own people used

(By the by Robert hear from his father - that Joffins is in
Prison & living on prison fare. I did you hear a good
thing that was said about the great organ in Boston
"It was imported by Joffins for Mrs. Shallock. but as
he failed to pay or around the music table took off
his hands." - Do you see that all the other cities of N. S. are
are to have organs - larger & grander than Boston!!!
- Then there is here a Mrs. Susan Dexter - who by the by
arrived in the ship with me. She was an Amory of
Boston. then there are a Mrs. & Mr. Colden Murray of
New York. & Mrs. & Miss Cleveland & Mrs. J. Parkman
my nice people. I arrived so late here & have been
so busy that I have not been able to see much of
any body except casual or out at evening parties
which arriving just at times in a short season. I
have seemed to drop in the midst of. My cook has
been all you said I arrived & I had been getting along
in a sort of haggis huffin way - neither one thing or
the other. not able to have any one to dinner - but Mary
& no one in the evening at all - To-morrow Saturday
some dozen or more people are coming for a chat
but no music - no nothing! There are so many things
to be done in my house - so many things which require
them I attribute that I am almost crazed - no thing
seem approaching a settlement - curtains are almost
up - Carpet almost down - my bed room almost all
ready - & I shall then have the my guest house in Rome
so that when my children come to me, they will
have a really beautiful apartment. The room which
was my bedroom when you were here is now the my
most beautiful room in the house. I bought a long
paper from Paris - slip pen. duster - which covers
the old furniture beautifully - here - until the room is
ready which I am intending for a dining room - for
had to be Aunt Susan's bed room I will eat & drink
our breakfast & dinner - & here I write & attend to all my
business matters. In removing the door of the dining

Don't do that they would spin outward. The room has been
made very cold. It had been very warm. Then the stove
which was in my dining room has been allowed to get into
a delapidated state. so that no fire could be made in it.
The weather has been so dead & full cold that in the room
a horse could get warm. I think I was made
resistible by the cold. as I am in Rome. Certainly I
never felt the cold so severe. There is on the campaign
rather dangerous to hunt. We had a snow storm
which was so cold. that the snow remained on the
roofs of the houses 30 days. The fumes have in them
& every body is suffering & coughing. but for the name
of being in Italy - it might be Sweden. At the moment
when we are at things are resolving themselves
out of chaos. my servants are in rebellion - they find
the work too hard. I must have more help. & so they
shall. I am not going to stir myself any more
but live to my content. We must also write to your
father that he thinks the Philadelphia matter will come out
right. but requires patience time & money. Jefferson
comes at all rights - or even half rights. I can afford
to live more comfortably & I am going to do so. you I see
think of putting about 1/2 price them. Ducky. how
strange it seems that your father should raise you
up. just as you has put money upon the house
in supporting it. I declare I do think he is much
too hard on Ned. I can say he gets hardly towards
him for persuading you to marry him. but I cannot
but think he is hard & unjust to him. more than
he is to other of his belongings. I mean to that he
raise you out 300 dollars a year - which Ned has
to pay & then makes you a true present of 250. He
is a funny man. - I am so glad you found your
house & servants all right on your return from the country
it is a comfort. I don't know to return & find my house
right. Poor father has been so busy unpacking & such as
can't come home. that she has never been out of the house but

to see him in pain - Aunt Emma is getting better. I
am sorry the Nitric Acid. & she is improving much. It
is an admirable tonic, I am sure. I am afraid that
Fred is indulging in too much wine. If his eye is so bad
you could not see him much worse in alliquis. I am
stunned to death about it. it spoils all his good
looks & makes his face unrecognizable. Oh, I cannot tell you
how it distresses me. The will being & doing of my
dear ones - make up my happiness - but this trouble
of his eye - makes up my unhappiness. Oh I am afraid
it is too far gone & will be well.

No dear I than Mr. Paul Duplow. He fear it was not away
my book sent out from Fells. what you say of Mrs
Tombs & Mr. Humble & Browning - is most admirable
reading & I am delighted with your criticism. Nothing
could be better conceived or said. but as this - which
makes Robert Browning so objectionable to me. He says
some splendid things - but most of his finest is spoiled
by materialism - or rather materialism. - I have read
nothing since I came back. only paid visits - received
them. & visited. & settled house affairs for myself
Mr. King - who has small opinion. She is a very nice
woman indeed & I am very fond of her. She comes to
me in all her trouble & I believe I am a comfort to
her. He is nice. & the daughter is a sweet little girl, very
much in love with your mamma. -

I have a letter from your grand mother telling me of the
bad illness of your uncle Charlie's wife - with carbuncle
in the back of the neck. She refused to see a Dr. until
it was almost too late. Oh how very low. poor uncle
Charlie is a faithful & devoted nurse. though one
whom I would not work at the office. She would let a
Dr. touch the thing but he would not make him a slave.
Your grand mother is to be allowed to have the children
with her for two days this holiday. She was too poor
to go down to Liverpool to pass a portion of these
holidays with them. I must write to her to come

What he has shown for two days - Ah I wonder if the good
Dear God - ever & knows how into a creature he permits
to create the found in the person of that miserable
creature. The only one human being who by all my
efforts. In here I believe to subdue me to a forgiving
disposition. I don't know whether the time will ever
come that I can conquer my intense hate of him.
Nothing can ever satisfy me but for God to beat him
until he almost kills him - I hope to see him in the
street that is the thing for which I wait. & then I
can let him go. The children, I am satisfied, don't
care a straw for me - either of them. Their grandmothers
try to persuade me they do - but they don't. There is
no persuading the fact - but never mind, my daughter
loves me - as I would be loved & that is all I care for.
I have never thanked you for your love & your presence
which I have used these times for Bachelors
Cakes very convenient & beautiful etc. I don't
forget thinking of you dear one but as you need that to
mind me of your loving thought of me -
I can't thank you for it. You get no presents from
me dear one I fear. But I thought of you lovingly & I wish
you you shall have a present which will please you.
I am very glad darling that you are busy in yourself
in Church matters for your father's sake. anything
that you have happiness is surely one of your father's
dear. He is a good man - a good father - but a hard
man. - Will you thank him dear for his letter to me
if I am now able to find time to write to him partic-
ularly which I will try to do. His letter was interrup-
ted this morning by its coming from you to get
somed from ride with Walter - Oh darling I am getting
very well satisfied with my house. I do so wish you
could be here to enjoy them with me - Ah when will
the happy time come for us? when? Since I
inwardly after a road - I am for the present the

from & happy on the same paper - we have since
I have been up to the Villa Capra to pay a letter
to the Doctor. & have come home to find Aunt Sam
busy writing - & not ready to go to bed - so I set down
to finish up this letter to you - I think I told
you that I had a letter from Col Hamilton - a
letter which I myself put into the hands of post
that rainy day when I was late for dinner at
the table because I was anxious to get that letter
off - has now reached her hands - I wonder if
could not be found at the Dead letter office in Wash-
ington if you wrote to Mrs Seward - If you do write
will you give them all my affection - I like them
much I like the Kings - who are as sweet as they
be - I love Mrs Sanford & Nath Field - I am so sorry
them all - oh I am so sorry for every body - I
a nice little letter from Mrs Field - telling me a
sort of news & gossip - Do you ever think of sending
a little line to Mrs Freeman - till her I find how
I will & so happy she has made a long bush of
Tracy - a most beautiful ideal head - she has improved
in many ways - Mrs Aunt Sam & Sallie send
best wishes of love - I love you darling as you would
wish me to love you perhaps more than I do
I want you - I want for you I hope God may
join us some day when it will be well for
all to be together - Give my kind love to your mother
& sister & Mrs Brewster & your father - How many
from a hundred times - if so many is proper -
am anxious to know for certain whether Miss
Morton will come to Europe - I hope they will -
Della is coming to America in August - if the law be
with her - God bless you my darling may your own
love & love happiness & adoration