

P.S. This is such an interlined scrawl, that I am half ashamed to send it: it is from haste, that I might not lose the Post.

I thank you very much, my dear Cousin, for your kind letter, which I lose no time in acknowledging. If you knew the perplexity of my mind about my future destination, you would, I am sure, forgive my not having written again from Bath. Besides, I was a good deal taken up, during a part of my stay, by Roberts' making a visit there: I was obliged to relieve my poor Father, as much as possible, from playing company; to which he really was not equal. Till the question in your last, it escaped me that I had not mentioned this to you. You and my good friend, Mr. J. Dickenson, are extremely kind in thinking so much of my affairs. I am still in all the torment of suspense; for Mr. H. tells me that there are points to be adjusted, before he will reengage, which can only be done by a personal conversation with Mr. Jones, the Proprietor, who has not yet left London. I have seen Mr. Jones, who

answered my question in a very frank and handsome manner, saying, that if Mr. H. was satisfied, he was, and desired nothing better than to go on. What these points are, that Mr. H. alludes to, neither Mr. Jones nor I, can tell; as he has not written to him, and his letters to me, are ~~written~~^{scrawled} in such a hurry of business, that they are any thing but explanatory. I sincerely wish your ideas and Mr. D.'s, of my affairs being "in a good train," may be verified. of your kind anxiety about them, I am very sensible. —

It is with real affliction that I hear of the melancholy state of the excellent and accomplished Lady Herries. God grant that she may be able to ~~derive~~^{experience} comfort from the friendship she will receive from you. At all events, you will derive satisfaction from bestowing them; and I hope Cheltenham (which agreed so well with you, before), will counteract the ill effects I should otherwise apprehend from so trying a scene. If you find Lady Herries able to recollect former transient acquaintance, ^{affairs}

her of my sincere wishes for her recovery. Have the goodness to present my compliments to Sir Robert. — There is no chance, my dear Cousin, of persuading my Father to an excursion to Cheltenham: he does not like the place, at best; and his having resided in it with my poor Mother would be an insupportable bar, even if he had a preference for it. — My sister goes to Ireland in July: should things turn out as I would have them, it will be a delightful opportunity for me to go over. she is, to do her justice, kindly anxious upon the subject. she is much to be pitied on the score of her own family; for Captain Hall's affairs, owing to the state of West-India property, are likewise deranged: however, he has got a ship, and is gone out; but his amiable wife is left at home, with six children, and a seventh approaching. Nor Captain Rodney, (Lady Jones's husband), my sister has succeeded in getting an appointment in Ceylon, so much better than his former one, as to add 1200£ per annum to his income. With all her gaieties, she has ever been ^{excellent} and Mother. — Pray give my kind love to

Mr J. D., and my cousin, Louisa; and accept, once
more, my best thanks for all your affectionate
interest. As my movements are very uncertain,
you had best continue to direct here: your
letters will be immediately forwarded, should I
be absent. Hoping for a better account of

Mr. Dickenson
Leighton House
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire

VAM/114/3/22

Lady Herries, I remain
my dear Cousin

No 35 Aldgate Highth your sincerely obliged and affectionate
London.
May 19. 1877. How is Mr D. now?
J. Holman.