

Brighton. 17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
1876

Dear Charles. I have just rec<sup>d</sup> -  
 your dear letter of 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. via Dublin  
 - So I have the opportunity of re-  
 plying - though the mail went out from  
 Southampton last week - I can  
 not tell what Thursday. from here  
 by some mail. catching it at Dublin  
 by payment of 2<sup>d</sup> extra postage -  
 I see you had my letter from  
 St Leonards. in which all their ap-  
 proved smooth & hot. I should  
 probably return to the Colonies  
 this year - you will ere this have  
 learned all that has influenced  
 my remaining - I am now  
 then near three months at school  
 in Sussex Square Brighton - where  
 every thing most desirable is to be  
 met with - only, that unfortunately  
 the scarlet fever. appeared in that  
 neighbourhood - and at last the  
 school - (I think) had 12 cases. This



Course. much interference to  
Stables and the school had to  
be broken up. before the regular  
Term - Sister occupied as having  
taken the form at Mr. Vessing's  
- The master could not attend for  
fear of carrying the infection  
but Mr. Charlton & one of the  
German Gouernants professed to  
be carrying Sister on in the  
music & singing - Sister suffered  
the mortification of being excluded  
from the parties given of course  
by our friends in Brighton but  
truly there was only little visit  
at the isolation was so complete  
from the infected people - they  
being accommodated in an ad-  
joining house. - I had an  
invitation from Mrs. Alison to take  
Lettie with me in London for some  
days during the Term holidays, but  
on acquainting her with the facts  
at the time - she begged me not

to take Lettie to her house just yet  
- Mrs. Goddard not being quite so  
friendly has asked us to go  
to her to dinner on Tues day. so  
I shall find accommodation for  
Lettie & I at one of the Hotels for  
a week or ten days in the west  
end - and pay only day or so to  
our friends - I return to Brighton  
before the end of the Term holidays  
I expect there will be no difficulty  
about the resumption of Mr. G's school  
by middle of June - but if there is  
I shall take Lettie - on the  
Continent - any way I will take  
her from Mr. Charlton school  
by April end - for though she  
chose a school - I can see she  
is quite tired of the confinement  
and regular routine. which she  
is necessarily subjected to - she was  
disappointed of the manners of  
the English girls. - no school



is not. The place for her - but  
for the dishonesty of Mrs Stoye the  
place was much better - I am  
told it is very difficult to meet with  
the quiet place to place such a  
one as Lillian at - & when I have  
described the way in which she  
was brought up for the last three  
years in Tormonia & the good  
influences that surrounded her there  
people wonder that ever I thought  
of bringing her to an English school  
- which now are of a very different  
character to what they were 50 years  
ago - I might by advertising have had  
the choice of 200 places in a few  
days - but I am told none would  
have equalled what I brought her  
from in Tormonia - except in the  
counters of accomplishments &  
show - I must both adore  
of what I can get in this way. &  
try to bring her back as Lillian



affected by the first examples  
 she saw there before her - though  
 not so much in Mr. Charlton's school  
 as in others. - I took Mr. C. on the  
 recommendation of Mr. Bostock. &  
 Mr. Galloway & I should get through  
 & some way to return with letters  
 by the end of next year - I cannot  
 show her to any one now - she  
 cannot be confined at school & there  
 are no families now as I expected to  
 find. Looking to give a girl a nice  
 pure home. with the benefit of in-  
 struction - all society is on the  
 move - people here seem to be  
 - of an orphan child. is to be pro-  
 vided for & given. - it is the custom  
 to send it to a Country dignified  
 family. for care & education - but this  
 would not do for Lillian & she is much  
 too old. - The only thing I can do  
 now is to take her as if she were grown  
 up. to read about. & learn from ob-  
 servation. & to be a few lessons  
 when she has the opportunity. & this  
 end Helen Bell would be very useful.



and I proposed such a plan  
to her. if she did not decide on  
going to Tormonia, but then she  
could listen to nothing that did  
not include the widener. with  
or near her Aunt Bessie - now  
the old lady is dead - she might  
adopt my proposition, but I have  
not heard from her for some time  
I do not know whether she has  
returned from Shrewsbury or not - the  
last time I heard she would we  
to send her Cousin some money, but  
I have spent so much that I know  
nothing to spare - but I get letters  
but not much. - I was obliged  
to refuse an application about from  
H. Hensfield on the same score - the  
family is very poor - there little or no  
participation in the family income fund  
I fear Helen will be unburdened by them  
- I have given her all the advice I  
could - on this subject as well as how

to act - in her own affairs, but she is  
so very undecided - that I have now  
ceased to press her - I cannot un-  
derstand why she does not accept the  
very kind protection of her friend  
Mrs. Latham in London - she could  
then await - the result of the sale of  
her property - & the advice from <sup>Mr. Latham</sup> <sup>Mr. Latham</sup>  
and make better arrangements  
for the Continent - if she does not  
very soon - make up her mind - I  
must open negotiations with Miss  
Joop - for I do not see any one  
else that I could trust - however  
I will not tell her anything - I find  
Helen as I expect she will looking up  
her widener with Mrs. Bessie's family  
she thinks she could do both of  
good - but this could only be more  
trouble & expense that she will be  
worse - it is now the custom for all  
Ladies at the great tables to use the  
public rooms - with the gentlemen  
- having a kind of drawing room  
to sit in to offer meals - this would  
hardly do for Helen without some



one for me to depend on & I could  
not be expected to be always on the  
look out. - I am going to try a week  
of this kind of life in London. - I see  
how it succeeds. - it will be a great change  
from the discipline of the school.  
- Sister has had no end of amusement from  
Mr Chalmers attending most of the last  
concerts as a mode of instruction. - She  
has a large acquaintance in - Boston  
to which houses she did take her  
elder pupils - before the out break of  
the 3<sup>d</sup> fever - in fact but for this untimely  
infection creeping into her school. - I thought  
if on the best place I could have picked  
upon in England, but still exact for  
the accomplishments - I do not believe Sister  
could have been better than at Asby -  
- she now can be more close - will work  
in music - she is so able & capable  
of any kind of study - all she craves is  
through the eye - & I mean to gain her  
all the opportunities of acquiring her knowledge  
in this way - so soon as the weather  
will permit we will go our rounds.  
- It is most fortunate that I did not  
leave Europe. - She behind at the Hague.



She would have been utterly neglected  
 there - she would have thought - from  
 the high character she bore in Lomania  
 that she was the only person to have left  
 the child in the care of a but. The  
 secret was - she was ashamed to let  
 it be known. But she took a pupil  
 - I am very much disappointed - in  
 not - finding any one I could - have  
 relied on - for I fully calculated on  
 returning to Lisle by the Lomanian  
 route - & doing something towards  
 restoring the garden by - planting  
 fruit trees & making the place  
 a home against I brought Lilla  
 back - also - putting many things  
 to rights in the office. I could  
 have done this and been back  
 here by next Sept - very well  
 now though I have written to Wilson  
 to take care of the place & do any  
 pointing for any thing required for  
 the purification of the dwelling. I  
 expect it will look a nice bright place  
 when we return - is he cultivating?  
 - for he expects to take the land for



nothing but pasture —  
See you how by. All kinds  
of part of the use in wool. — it  
has now quite recovered to as  
high as ever. This Blooming tells  
me — for I have had no access  
of knowing any thing of the  
matters — but it is all amusement  
& idleness & I am quite sick  
of the place only. That it is the  
worrest place one can find in  
England and at the same time  
the dearest — all the streets  
& foot paths are kept in the  
greatest state of cleanliness the  
land lays so well for drainage  
& the soil is so porous that after  
half an hour when rain has  
fallen every thing is dry & clear  
— it is the most comfortable town in  
England to walk in — but very

expensive to live in — the only  
part where I hear but with good  
mutton & bread. — butter eggs  
unfit to eat — all very dear & had  
— all coming from the Continent &  
spoiled before arrival. all but  
the butter which is a perfect curiosity  
— it is a kind of yellow colour which  
keeps any time — always a little  
in the bread. Color & taste of what  
things sold — by those who do not  
know what real butter is —

I am very much grieved to  
hear that D. Vallentin is so ill.  
— and I am glad you can show  
him some kindness. I would wish  
to send him my kindest remembrance  
and wish for his recovery — we often  
talk of going — our next object is  
to suppose must follow them soon  
I feel not at all equal to travelling  
about in this cold climate — though the  
winter has not been at all severe yet  
— but I feel the damp & wind of night  
— I have not now seen the sun for a  
whole week — & the day light is only



about five hours. I cannot see  
to read or write after 11 o'clock  
but the hours are gloomy & dark.  
I should have seen you somewhere  
South Sea Road. but that I would  
be here to look. Letter for the invitation  
she had in London for the June. -  
but now there had been foregone on  
account of the prejudice about the  
I fear I only the following course.  
to have her to dinner. on 4 times a day  
but not to stay the night. - There is something  
alarming about - The small Pox. is raging  
in London. - we appear to have got into  
a large house. & I shall be glad when  
we get away safe & sound. - if I ever  
write again by this mail I will - but  
going by London tomorrow & coming back  
for letter on. Thursday I do not think  
I shall have time. with love to all at  
Rendale. I am yours, affly.

William Cullen

I had overlooked what you said about - a  
subscription to building a school at New. - if you  
see by the list of subscribers - that I ought to pay  
£10 L. dad. but there should be at  
least £100. -