

Letters from Corporal J. R. Hudson of the Rifle Brigade to his aunt

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Sep ~~29~~²⁹ 1853

Putnam

My Dear Aunt

Instead of being stuffed
with Props and poisoned
with garlic, I am once more
surrounded with my old
companions in Music,
I have according to my
promise written as soon
as I joined the Regiment.
where I find all going on as usual.

I left London at 5 O'clock
on Saturday P.M. and arrived
in Portsmouth at 22 Minutes
past 8.

When I left your house
on Friday at a $\frac{1}{4}$ to 5 it was
with the intention of hurrying
home as fast as possible
after calling on Sarah, as I
had promised my Sister-in-law
to be home by 6 the latest.
But such was not to be.
For I did not arrive home
until a quarter past 12.

After leaving you I went
direct to Sarah's, where I
remained about half an hour
when who should pop in
but Elizabeth which kept
me another hour, and
when I found Elizabeth
was going to London Bridge
Station, I could not do less than
accompany her there; when there
I went on the Greenwich to Margat
and from there I walked over
Black Heath in company with
Elizabeth to her home, from
thence I took Train for London
at a quarter past 10.. and arrived home $\frac{1}{4}$
past 12.

Susan was naturally very angry, but
it could not be helped. So she consoled
herself with the french proverb, Il
souffrir patiemment de que est
evitable. I think Elizabeth a
most charming, amiable, and
fascinating young woman.

Sarah, I think as ~~smart~~ industrious,
merry, captivating, and jovial.
I trust you have by this got
an house to suit you.

Give my love to Mr Bridgeman
and little Charles and consider
me to be your more than
ever affectionate
Nephew

Alfredson

Portsmouth
Dec 20th / 53

A Merry Christmas to you
My Dear Aunt, and many
of them. Another Year
has rolled by, a year that
has been to me, one of much
Anxiety, and Discontentment,
a year that has opened my
eyes to the humiliating con-
—dition in which I find my-
—self; and one that has caused
me to use all those energies
(which have too long lain
dormant) as the means of
emancipating myself from

the petty tyranny, ignorance,
and thralldom of (what I cannot
term other) than tolerating slavery.
My course is taken, let the
consequences be what they
may, nothing shall induce
me to swerve from my
firm and fixed resolve.

A new year is fast ap-
-proaching, I trust it will
be one of happiness and
prosperity to us both. To me
it will be one of the greatest
epochs of my life, ~~for I trust~~
for reasons that I cannot
now explain, but which time
itself will inform you. of

My Dear Aunt I hope
you are quite well, and
perfectly satisfied with
your present abode.

I have very recently writ-
ten to Elizabeth, and
am anxiously awaiting
an answer, but I am afraid
she is something like my-
self very irregular in her
correspondence, not that I
can complain, for I
have received two letters
from her since I left London
however, I hope she will write
this month.

I have no news to
send you worthy of
your notice: but hope
to have some soon
that will surprise
you. Give my love to Mr
Bridgman and Master
Henry William, also to
Aunt Hutton and Sophy.
And believe me to be
ever your truly affectionate
— Nephew —

P.S. I have not heard from
my Brother since I left London.
which is very extraordinary.

O Dec. ^{here}

1854

Sutari

My Dear Aunt

I have perfectly recovered from
my late severe attack of Fever and
Dysentery, and am enjoying excellent
health, which I trust you are also.
I am still in my old situation
over the Russian Officers, and can
talk Russian nearly as well as
themselves. — I am as you perceive
still in Sutari, owing to Amputation
having taken place in a number
of Cases, they are now doing well
and I expect in a few days to
join the Russians already assembled

At Cooralee. I am heartily sick of
Scutaria for I am daily surrounded
with the dead and dying, the groans
of the wounded is frightful. And
the number of deaths is incredible.
Last Sunday week I took a walk as
far as the English Burial-ground
and there the mounds of earth, denoting
the grave of many a brave English-
man, ^{the number} is past calculation, what
my feelings were is ~~most~~ impossible
for me to describe, the many narrow
(I may say) providential escapes I have
had, the mercy that Almighty God
has extended to me, tended to show
how weak and frail we all are, and
what a few hours sickness will produce.
My reflections were solemn and sad.
~~God will send me to a better world.~~

I had seated myself but a very short
time when I saw Approaching a funeral
party bearing 8 and 30 Corpses I followed
to a distant part of the ground when
I saw a large hole about 24 feet by
12 into which our poor fellows were
placed, they were borne by Punks, each
wrapt in his field Blanket and placed
side by side, the funeral service having
been read by the Rev^d Mr. Hadow.

Worthy they Rest! these Soldiers now
From Battle, Wounds, and Strife
The breath of Conquest decks their brow
With Rays of endless life.

Only one hundred of these Graves
contain men of my Regiment, how
soon I may add one to the number
God only knows, for sickness and

Myself are very well acquainted.
There is ~~no~~ news from Sebastopol
it is as impregnable as ever, thousands
are dying with cold, and disease.

A few batteries is all that has been
taken, Officers as well as men
are taking to drink, drunkenness
is very common at Sebastopol.

As soon as it falls I will write
if I am alive, remember me

to my Brother when you see him

also to Mrs Bridgeman, Aunt
Hutton, Sophie, and Eliza both.

With my prayers for their health
and happiness. and consider me

ever your most Affectionate
and dutiful Nephew



February 7th 1855

Sebastopol

Dear Aunt

Light in heart, high in
 spirits I once ~~once~~ gaze on the renowned
 walls of Sebastopol, impatiently ^{awaiting} in order
 to disembark, to join those brave com-
 -panions which unexpected sickness
 drew me from; I return to them
 a better man, and I trust a better
 soldier, for the first Russian my sword
 passed through shocked me greatly
 scenes which I then looked upon
 with horror, I can now gaze on with
 complacency, disasters and suffering have
 been of such daily occurrence that I
 have grown almost callous to both, such
 is the friction of war.

that with which we recall
 the perils and pledges of future
 days.

I am a soldier now, not merely in name, in dress, but in thought heart and action, and I take the field with pride and pleasure, in full assurance of leaving it with honour, both to myself and Country. And that kind Providence which has hitherto been my protector, will still I trust watch over, and guard me from all harm.

Our present encampment forms part of a mountainous country, covered with snow, broken with torrents, and destitute of wood and water, so essential to the health and comfort of our little army. Continual rain and tempests causes considerable embarrassment by producing so much sickness among us, numbers of our poor fellows have lost their feet through frost. Our new batteries are nearly completed, they are still masked, which causes our enemy much disquietude. As after repeated, and numerous sorties which generally end in their discomfiture, they cannot find their situation. Only consider that when these new batteries open fire

there will be nearly 300 guns playing on them and their shipping, most of very heavy calibre and after 24 hours firing it is said the assault will be made, as to the result we feel confident, fall it must, or we must never think of seeing Old England again: confidence in our superiors, though that has been a little shook during this Campaign, hope and courage in ourselves is the only thing that can enable us to pass happy, and content through this Campaign of reverses and disappointments.

In acknowledging your letter of the 13th of January I cannot be other than truly sensible of the affectionate sentiments it conveys, and the honour in being named in connection with yourself God-father to my Brother Child is infinitely gratifying. It is another proof of your esteem for him who so ill deserves such affectionate regard; remember me kindly to my Brother and Sister, and tell ~~me~~ I am happy to congratulate them in the addition to their family, and ~~that~~ grieve ever ^{at} their want of taste for pen, Ink, and Paper.

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I am exceedingly happy to find you
Mrs. Bridgeman and her lovely little Son
Henry ^{are} quite well I pray you may
all continue so. Bear my love to
Aunt Hutton and Sophie and tell them
that even on the Battle field there is
one who prays for their welfare.

Elizabeth I received a letter from on the
last day of December, so you perceive I
have been more fortunate than you
in being honoured with a letter from her.
She is quite well, complains sadly of
dullness; her ladies had the condescension
to speak to her of my humble self, and
stated the pleasure it would give them
to see me on my return, but that day
is far, very far distant, I cannot think of
home without feelings of sadness, those days
passed at Twickenham with my Grandfather
have of late frequently recurred to my mind
I can recall to mind his kindness, his smiles, his
Violin, were he living how I could love, respect,
revere him. those days were the happiest of

February 13th 1855

Sutari

Dearest Aunt

Early the day following that on which I last wrote to you we received an order to prepare to disembark which order was cheerfully received. As Soldiers cannot endure the close confinement of a ship. After waiting upwards of 4 hours we were told to go to our berths again as it was impossible to effect a landing that day, in such a heavy sea.

During the passage I made
the acquaintance and gained
the good will of the Steward
who treated me as a Brother
he gave me part of his Cabin
and supplied me with such
Articles of food which for money on
with the French and Russians
I could not obtain on Shore
And the day when I expected
to disembark presented me
with a Bottle of Brandy and
a bundle of Sugar; In the
Evening I expressed to him how
deply I was indebted to him
for his kindness; and how unable
at present I was to make him
any equivalent; for his disinterested
Generosity.

I left him and went on deck, it
was raining very hard, under shelter
of the Balworks I stood and
gazed on the Camp, it was very
dark, still I could see numerous of
Horsemen Galloping to and fro.
An heavy Cannonade was going
on with the French and Russians
Shells were visible in all directions
their long tails, like Rockets, leaving
a Stream of fire behind them.
I was wondering how this would
all end when the Doctors Servant
tapped me on the Shoulder and
said I have been hunting for
you all over the Ship the
Doctor wishes to see you directly
I imagine my Surprise when the
Doctor tells me that I am to go

back to Senter in charge
of Sick. So here I am
Again in Senter, and
More comfortable than
ever. As my absence from
the Regiment may cause
much talk, I intend joining
them in March.

My Love to Mrs Bridgman
Elizabeth, and Orrey. And
believe me to love you
not as a nephew but as
a Son.

Henry

RAMC 339/2

April 13th - 1853
Camp before Sebas-

Beloved Aunt and Cousin

You will perhaps feel surprised
and hurt in my not having written
earlier in answer to your affec-
tionate letter, but having written
to my Cousin Miss Hutton, I deemed
that sufficient until such time
as I had some news to send
you worthy of your attention.
Therefore I know you will, as
you have ever done before,
pardon me for this neglect.
It is most gratifying to me
as I am certain it would be
to you - could you but outstep
the energy with which the

Bombardment as recommenced
ammunitions in abundance, and
every necessary article, that can
tend to hasten the destruction
of the place which has already
been the cause of so much
misery and loss of life. On the
9th of April Easter Monday
the batteries opened at day-
break, and was continued almost
without intermission with spirit un-
till sunset when rockets and
shells were thrown into their
batteries and works until
morning with the view of
deterring them from repairing
damages, and subsequently
a repetition of the same
is all that has been done

The Allied fleet are ranged
in order of Battle outside
the Town, they have fired a
few shot to get their range.
We expect to see them dash
into the Harbour so soon
as the Russian batteries
are sufficiently disabled to ad-
mit of us supporting them.
The Russian Fleet ^{are} ignobly
hiding under hills, and dare
not come out.
On Friday 15th the Turks passed
by with numbers of scaling
ladders on their way to
the Batteries, so you may
expect to hear of something
having been done; I will
write directly anything of im-
portance occurs.

You will be pleased to learn that
I now receive 3^d day in addition
to my daily pay. 2 pence from the
Band Fund, and one penny a day for
good Conduct the badge for which
I wear on my Arm. I hope you
are both quite well, also your charm-
ing boy even as this leaves me
in health and happiness, I received
a letter from my Brother an answer
to which I return by this mail.

I have also heard from Dr Elizabeth
in which I find she is very
much indisposed from over ex-
-ertion. We shall storm in a
few days until then Farewell!

Yours loving Son

William

RAMC 339/2

April 22nd 1855
Sebastopol

My Dear Aunt And Brother

I have been lately somewhat busied in preparing for home, in fact all are still employed in that agreeable occupation; and in conveying shot, shell, guns and stores to Balaklava: hence the cause of my not having acknowledged your letter earlier. The little I have now to say will perhaps cause you some disappointment, but my dear Aunt when I assure you how pleased I am at all times to send you all the news I can, you will not I feel assured believe me idle, or imagine that I consider writing to you a task, or common-place duty; you know and feel that it is far otherwise. The contents of my letters, and regularity of correspondence must long since have shown you the state of my feelings: for, as a Son I love and respect you. — And viewing myself as I am — your nephew — and what you have ever been to me, I feel sensible of the great debt I owe you; which if it please God to bless my efforts — and I carry out my plans as regards the future with success; I shall then hope to be of some service to you. I am sorry to find you still suffer with colds: but, as

You say, let us hope the approaching
warm weather will enable you to enjoy
better health; You must for my sake en-
deavour to get quite well ere I reach
London, for I hope to have the pleasure
of being your knight, in many an out-of-door
excursion. You ask after my friend and
companions Mr Watkins, I am happy to say
he is quite well, and very much pleased
with your kind enquiry. We shall visit London
together, and I shall remain in his locality
(the Haymarket) during my temporary stay there.
I have been to the Russian Camp, and a more
obscene and disgusting combination and collection
of men - women - children - animals and filth does
not exist I verily believe in the universal world.
The men are almost without exception (their person and
dress) one mass of filth. Their habitations are holes dug
in the earth, which are covered with branches overlaid
with turf or mud. The interior, destitute of every
comfort and necessary conducive to health. Their food
consists of a miserable pittance of coarse black bread,
a small portion of meat, and some kind of seed with
which when their meat is fresh they make what we style
soup. They very politely asked me to partake of some;
my stomach gave me a tringe & too at the bare
thought, and which ended in its heavily ejecting my
breakfast. Soup with them appears as scarce as clean
shaved chins are with us. They appear friendly,
and well disposed toward the English, but
with the French they are not quite so familiar.
The women I grieve to say are numerous - shameless
and depraved, many of them are young and pretty, and

in as far as cleanliness, and personal appearance go, much
superior to the men, and if their poor creatures are the
outcasts of Sebastopol. They do not appear so sensible of their
forlorn condition as one would suppose, on the contrary they
appear happy, and resigned to their hard fate. Such is their
ignorance that many of them assert, they have had the best
of the war, that they have secured that for which the war
began, in short that they have prevented us and the French
from taking Borty. On the 17th inst the Russian -
General Liders received the French and English armies
which lasted from sunrise to sun set. The number of
French present was estimated at one hundred thousand
and that of English infantry alone at thirty thousand.
It was the most magnificent affair I ever saw in
my life, and probably ever shall see again.
We are ignorant as to the date of our departure, but
knowing it to be shortly, we are light-hearted and
happy. A few of our ships have entered the harbour
of Sebastopol, where it is said we shall embark.
I am indeed grieved and disappointed with the
information relative to my dear parents last
resting-place, for it has been my intention
since I have had the means to place a me-
morial over their graves. My sister Margarette
if I remember rightly was interred in the same
ground, but I always thought it was at St Johns
Wood, I must have been very young when she
died, still I remember her perfectly well.
In closing my let me beg of you to give my love
to Aunt Eliza and Sophia, and with your con-
sent say, we shall have the happiness to
see them as soon as possible after my reaching
London. I hope they are enjoying good health.

My love to Elizabeth, with my wishes for
her speedy restoration to health; you may say
I shall shortly send her a letter. My love also
to Katharine and Henry and hope they are well
you will say that I hold Katharine my debtor
one letter - payable on my reaching England
Remember me also to Mary Ann when
you write. With my prayers for your
health: and happiness temporal and
spiritual accept the love of

Your Nephew & Son
Wm. W. W.

P.S. With respect to some questions
unanswered I cannot now for want
of time, answer. I fear I am as it is
late, and shall have a long walk in
consequence.

N.B. It is useless to write to me
before you hear from me in England

Adieu

May 4th 1855
Camp before Sebastopol

My Friend and Cousin

Your letter of the 16th of April I received on the 30th of May stating that you have not received any letters from me lately, I assure you that I have written regularly and as you have not received them of course they are as you say, lost, I am very sorry that you place so little faith in my promises as to imagine that I have neglected writing to you, I do not think that I have given you cause to doubt the assertions in my former letters, neither can I believe that you deem me so negligent. Knowing the love I bear you; I always have and ever will write either once, or twice each month. Your letters I have received. in one of which were the two fancy cards you mention, and for which I gave you my thanks and an appropriate reply in return from my Cousin Sophie. I also received a letter and to which I immediately replied its disappearance together with your own is a perfect mystery.

I am enjoying excellent and spirits
but I am sorry to say Cholera has
already made its appearance in
our Camp I fear its ravages this summer
will be frightful particularly should
we remain in our present unhealthy Camp
ground. Since the date of my last which
you may have received ere this the
bombardment has ceased for the pur-
pose of constructing new batteries, but
will speedily be resumed, our advanced
parallel is now exceedingly close to the
Turkish batteries, consequently very
near the City, say 600 Yds. Yesterday one
half of my Regiment embarked on board
of ship together with the Highland Brigade
under the command of Sir George Brown
I was unable to learn its destination, it
is probably to act in concert with the
Turks in cutting off supplies entering Sebas-
topol. When anything of consequence occurs
I will immediately write and send
you the particulars. Mr. Short's brother of a
was slightly wounded on the chin about 12 o'clock
the night of the 30th inst. We were sitting together
talking in one of our rifle pits when a perfect storm
of grape and canister put an end to
our pleasant conversation by completely closing
his mouth with the blow he received for it
swelled enormously, it was very singular

the last time we were on the batteries
I received a blow on the right leg a little above
the ankle, swelling and bruising it considerably
so you see the narrow escapes we have here
on the day Short was wounded I fired 170 rounds
of ammunition. I escaped myself in some hole
or behind some gabion under cover of small
shot, and the moment a Russian showed his
nose, bang goes a shot, if ~~half the~~ shot told, half
the Garrison in Sebastopol should be without
posers.

You wish to know if I still carry on
correspondence with what you term
my Young Lady. No my dear Aunt I do not.
The Young Lady you allude to has proved herself
unworthy of even my esteem, by acting contrary
to what she promised on my leaving England
and her subsequent conduct has been such
that no consideration on my part or ex-
planation on hers shall induce me
to act contrary to my principles, or in
opposition to my conscience by the renewal
of a correspondence which however
satisfactory it might recompense would
I feel obliged to terminate as it has already
done in deceit; I have seen much of the
world and tho I studied much of those who in-
habit it, and I find the more I do so the more
I have to guard against, deceit, and empty
promises, which are no sooner made

than either broken or forgotten.
I own there are exceptions but how few
in all Clases of Society. Some selfish motive
often prompts them to act contrary to reason
how often does interest, rank, or ambition, induce
young people to give their hand, unaccompanied
with their heart, and so bring upon themselves endless
misery. No my Aunt to whomsoever. I may marry
my hand goes not (without my heart, and can you
believe such possibly could be the case were I
to marry her whose conduct has been highly
derogatory and unbecoming the character of a
modest woman, Oh! no, no, I will never do
ought my conscience would condemn, neither
can I, or will I associate with any whose moral
character is, or has been questionable
No my Aunt I will never marry but with
your approbation and promise in bringing my
letter to a close let me beg of you to forgive
any thing you may conceive improper in what
I have written. Remember me kindly to
Aunt Hutton and Sophia and tell them
how grieved I am to find my letter has mis-
carried and that I will write again soon
give my love to Elizabeth, and assure her of my
health and safety, for she has behaved to me
during this Campaign as a sister, also to Mary
Ann at Greenwich, and you my Aunt and Cousin
may Heaven protect and bless—

Wm. Harrison

June 6th 1855

My dear Cousin

At 3 O'Clock P.M. this day the

embarkment performed, the roar of the

Artillery is deafening and the smoke

is that thick it is impossible to see

50 yards in front of me. The redan,

Marsela, and Malakoff Tower are firing

very briskly.

I answered to your letter dated May the 25th

I am therein convinced it was not your in-

tention to reproach me with either negligence

or forgetfulness, and, although I may at the

time have misconstrued your meaning you

know I love you too sincerely to believe

that you intended your letter I viewed in the

light of an admonition, and my answer

was merely to reestablish myself in your

esteem, in your love.

There is nothing you can state in your letters
which can afford me half the gratification
and happiness that simple silence must ever
give me. viz. I am quite well. you would do
us your best, it is the greatest blessing we can
have on earth, consequently our dearest and
most precious possession, I thank God that I am
still enjoying that inestimable blessing, my hope
and trust is that you are also.

The Mail which brought your letter, brought one also from Elizabeth, she is quite well, and on her way to Versailles near Paris.

It is useless to send you anything respecting
our Black-Sea operations, for you know long
ere this of the capture of Rostok, its guns,
factories &c. and the safe passage of our
flats into the sea of Azoff. also of several
other Cities, Ships, provisions, guns &c.

Thanks to the electric telegraph company.

An immense Army composed of English
French, Piedmontese and Turks have struck
their tents and pitched their Camp in
a valley on our right flank, to the right,
and in rear of Inkermann in readiness
to form a conjunction with the Russian
Army, and so invest the north side of Sebastopol.

June 7th at 11 o'clock A.M. one of our Magazines blew up with a terrific explosion the Minuteman was silenced at 6.2. M. The Hedars, and Melukoff former exhibits much weakness in their firing, your loss is very trifling as yet.
1. 2^d Mr. M. are ordered ^{under arms to the front} Masses of infantry are moving to the front. As yet we know not the cause. 5 past 3 thousand upon thousand are moving in all directions, the Turks are taking up their position on Inkerman

June 8th We made the assault between
6 and 7 last evening, but were
repulsed. We have taken
the mamelon, & God what
a night I have spent, we
have lost a great ^{number}, we are
to assault again to day.

Wm to P. A. M. I am unburst
The mail closes I can say no
more My love to my Aunt
Hattie & my and cousins
Your loving and dutiful Son
H. H. M.

August 4th 1855

Camp before Sebastopol

My Friend and Cousin

In the uncertainty which hovers over the future it would be premature to indulge in uncertainties or ponder on eventualities which may never be realised but knowing the pleasure anything in connection with myself will at all times afford you — you will be pleased to learn ^{that} a gentleman with whom I have been a constant correspondent since my departure from America in his last to me states that knowing my dearest wishes were when in England of leaving the service and settling in America offers me an home should my sentiments still be the same until such time as I could procure a situation. His letter runs as follows —

Your letter bearing date April 3th respecting
the attack on the 22^d of March gave me
and my friend much information with
which we was totally unacquainted.
For we found your account of that
dreadful night so much more clear
and precise than that given in our
Colonial papers that for the benefit of
our friend I have taken the liberty of having
had it published, for the which let me hope
you will not feel offended &c - knowing
your passion for American life I cheerfully
offer you bed and board until you can comfortably
settle yourself according to your wishes should
it please God to spare you. Now should my
intention of settling in Canada be against your
wish, I will immediately abandon it, for my
future actions shall ever be guided by your
counsel and advice, and never but with
your approbation. Should Sebastopol fall
there will probably be peace and my regiment being
the first out will most likely be the first home.

Your letter of the 16th of July came to hand on the
30th your promise it was taken 14 days to reach me
from which I calculate you must have received the
letter I sent you on the 13th or 14th inst about the
same time I did yours I am indeed happy to
hear so cheering an account of the state of
your health, I pray God it may still improve
I am also pleased to find my Cousin Miss
Bradburn is well together with her dear little
son Henry I expect he has grown amazingly since
I saw him last judging by the vast improvement
in him in every respect between Sept 52 and Feb 53
I don't suppose I should know him were I to see
him although I can distinctly recall to mind
his features as they were then. I trust Marian
and her family are much better, when you
write let me know how they all are. I heartily
hope my Cousin Elizabeth's health is not permanently
impaired by her travelling in France, you should
Dear Aunt and Cousin urge upon her the
absolute necessity of her immediate
return to England each day. Stay only add
for however much Elizabeth owes
to her ladies, or they to her; they
wish her to ~~remain~~ remain with
the precarious state of her health.

My Aunt and Cousin She is not much worse
than she represents. I am (blessed be God)
as hearty and strong as ever. I was in
my life, also very happy and contented, for none
but Christians know what true happiness consists in.
You of all others are best acquainted with the
vicissitudes of my past life, my failings, and my follies.
My trials, hardships, and misfortunes have been many
but blessed be God they have all tended to make me
look for comfort and consolation from ^{Heaven} from whom I
now derive my present happiness. May the Holy
Spirit influence your every word and action
and in all your trials and troubles may He com-
-fort and console you and should it please
Him to take either of us from this world of sorrow
we may see each other again on earth, may we
meet in Heaven. Bear my love to Aunt
Mary and Sophia; Elizabeth, Marianne, and my
other and Sister.

Many friends I once had round me
counsel at the days that are now gone past
the grave has closed upon them
your approval of me almost the last
with me. O my Saviour
this dreary life is past.
There will be for your many kindnesses to me.
The first out of my happen my latest breath shall bless you.

Sept 1st 1855.
Camp before Sebastopol

My dear Aunt and Cousin

It is so seldom I send you any information
relative to the war knowing that whatever
occurs here reaches you by telegraph so much
sooner than my letters possibly could I have
in consequence heretofore omitted sending
or rather troubling you with a details of events
which probably might have interested you little.
Should you find any amusement in the
perusal of the following it will in future
afford me much pleasure in collecting and
sending you the particulars of all that will
either interest or amuse you.

Since the date of my last I have enjoyed my
usual good health and taking into consideration
my present position am as happy and

to the great anxiety fully believing our
to be irreparable but if I think there will
be a chance for their attack at a future
day to day we hold our present ground
the last month has not been a very
pleasant one for them they will not easily forget
for they had a very fair opportunity of
their columns and a very fair opportunity of
leading to Mac Brien's camp they were
moved and as fast as they came they were
I was so far to observe their manoeuvres
correctly my Regiment not being engaged
in fact very few of the men were there at
all on the 10th and 11th of the month
they and right attack opened a tremendous
fire on their (the enemy) position and garden
batteries as well as the Malakoff Tower and
found our shells and they must have
that their response was at all times very
fierce and if they fall simultaneously
on the Malakoff Tower was not doubt

Sept 18th 1855

Sebastopol

Beloved Aunt and Cousin

Having a few hours to myself I will endeavour to give you a description of that which in my last I omitted, owing to duty and fatigue viz. the taking of Sebastopol. You have probably heard many versions of the affair each contradicting the other; but the following is from personal observation, therefore you may rely on its correctness. At day-break the 3rd battⁿ re-opened the bombardment on our left and left centre; and during the day kept up a very heavy fire, several new batteries having opened; the English right centre and Russian Redan having fired but little; towards sunset the cannonading rapidly decreased and at sunset entirely ceased but as soon as our reliefs had got clear of the trenches our mortar and rocket batteries opened a tremendous fire; at 8 o'clock our rockets had set fire to one of their line

of battle Ships also & some buildings which
burnt brilliantly until morning. The 6th and 7th
was merely a repetition of the day previous
their batteries showing evident signs of decay
their fire during the three days was very feeble,
as was that of our right attack the Mamelon
Left Co. the new adjoining batteries not being
quite ready; they were also very busy in
getting up shot and shell, tons of which
was carried up by French Regiments each day.

On the evening of the 7th a general order was

~~sent to the 1st Division to be prepared with~~
two days cooked rations, and to have his
Calabash filled with water; also allotting
to each Regiment its place of attack.
My Regiment having the honour of being the
covering party, that is, the first to attack
and cover the advance of the assaulting
party, ^{which} was composed of the 90th and 97th
Regiments, the 2^d and Light Division ~~making~~
the general attack so soon as the assaulting
party had gained footing in the Redoubt
the Guard and Highlanders being
the Reserve.

Oh! my Dear Aunt and Cousin what my thoughts
were on that awful day in the midst of that
awful fire when around me were hundreds of
dead and dying here better indeed as I watched
the countenances of many in the agonies
of death: some murmuring a prayer, others moistening
their parched lips, ^{while many lay} ~~others~~ ^{and} dead their features as
calm as when living, ~~and~~ many a poor fellow
~~was~~ asking his comrade ^{perhaps} ~~write~~ for a mother, father
brother, sister, or lover, what their thoughts were
God alone knows, may He have mercy on their souls
I thought of those beautiful verses of Scotts.
which no doubt are many a dying soldier's
thoughts.

In midst a heap of comrades dead and dying
That lay outstretched upon the parched ground
A wounded Soldier weak with pain was lying
His bleeding head was pillowed on a mound.

Panting with thirst his eye in death was glazing
But his kind friend with angel hand was there
On every side the flash of war was blazing
And all unheeded was his muttered prayer.

And as the crimson stream of life was melting
His thoughts were wandering to his early years
Swift as a rapid stream was memory telling
Once his childhoods life of smiles and tears.

He thought of home and one still dearer
Her name he murmured and although his heart
Flower and flower throbbled as death drew nearer
Yet could he not with her loved images part.

The thought of days destroyed - of Youth neglected -
Of passions headlong course - of counsel spurned
Of One whom his friend's heart had long respected
To whom in dying he would fain have turned

But the pale moon now on that field was beaming
Lighting with her many a death-pale brow
And its sweet light in silvery rays was gleaming
On the dead Soldiers face all for aife now.

On the 3rd inst I heard from Elizabeth
 her health is a little improved and I expect
 shortly to be in ^{the} Boulogne preparatory
 to sailing for England, send ^{me} ~~kindly~~
 kindly to her, and ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{of} my ^{affairs} ~~affairs~~
 safety also to my Captain Sophia and
 Hutton. Should my Brother call on you or
 pay him a visit please let him see this
 as I cannot find time to write to ~~her~~
~~her~~ him at length probably for some time
 but that she may expect to hear from
 God willing very soon. We have everything
 - packed for the line of March General Codrington
 embarked as on the 14th and after having
 us into square said it gives me great pleasure
 in being the bearer of a message from General
 Simpson who states he is very much satisfied
 with your gallant conduct on the 8th for throughout
 the day the bravery of the Rifles was most
 conspicuous.

The morning of the eighth at length came
and with it a perfect hurricane, the sand, dirt
and smoke nearly depriving us of sight.
The whole of our batteries had opened from right
to left. Never, as long as I live, shall I forget
that awful cannonading, the earth trembled as
though shaken by an Earthquake: the enemy
at times fired very briskly for the rocks
which in our former bombardments had
been comparatively safe; fell: grape, canister
and shell, dealing out death and destruction.
At 11 o'clock we were all in position and
our batteries fire still deafening and
answered by the Algerines. At 12 o'clock the
signal was given for the attack on the Malakoff,
in a moment the Algerines, Goaves, and
Chapeaux were over their trench; and in
a few more were in possession of the renowned
Malakoff: instantly the tricoloured flag
was floating on its battlements, the
signal preconcerted for our attack on the
Redan; in an instant our men were over
their trench, ladders placed, and after a des-
perate resistance (on the part of the
enemy) was in the Redan; for they
fought with axes, hammers, sprungers, &c.

their chief weapon at the first onset was with
large stones, for we gave them no time to
load, and for them to use their bayonet ~~was~~
was impossible, numbers of the runners would
not retire, and were bayoneted at their guns.
even at this time we had lost many men
but no one thought of retiring, we remained thus
for three-quarters of an hour firing as fast as
we could load without making any impression
on their masses when suddenly a deadly fire
fell on our flank which decided the General
in ordering a retreat, through the smoke I saw
the poor little bugles on the top of the Redan
sounding the retire when a shot struck him ~~fallen~~
fell - and rolled over the parapet a corpse.
It appears the Russians guarding the Malakoff
^{seeing it} Lower ~~un~~retreatably lost came to the succour
of their brethren in the Redan and
taking us in flank completed riddled us.
hence the cause of our having to retire
the Reserve now came up, but as it was thought too
~~late to attack~~ late to attack them, they were left in position
to attack them in the morning: but alas! morning
came but no enemy to attack; to give us the chance
of repairing our reputation, we had been repulsed
and that was sufficient to make us grieve at their departure.

Although we ought to regret at their having gone
without further bloodshed, but we console
ourselves in the expectation of soon meeting
them in the field when we hope to redeem
our Character and give them to understand that
if in fortification they are our Superiors in the
Field we are at least their Match. At sunset the
firing on both sides had nearly ceased, most
of our wounded had been got in, dressed, and
sent off to Camp, still numbers lay between
our advanced trench and the Redan, great
efforts were made to get them in but the
enemy kept up so murderous a fire of musketry
it was found impossible to get them all, this
fire was continued until 11 O'clock when it sud-
denly ceased altogether, we then heard them
running as if for their lives, we know not what
to think, is it probable they are retiring said
to the man by my side, not very probable said
he more likely going to make an effort to retake
the Malakoff, and that clatter you heard was probably
a trap to entice us up to the Redan, our
dialog was cut short by an awful explosion
which covered us with dust, throwing huge blocks
of timber in every direction, flames began

to issue from houses in every part of the
Town and by 3 O'Clock the following morning
nearly the whole City was in flames, explosions
occurring nearly every hour; and so having
blown up most of their Magazines, exploded their
mines, set fire to their City, destroyed their shipping
left unburied their dead, uncared for, and exposed
the whole night to the cold and damp their wounded
they after all their boasting, what they would do were
they gone up, like Perseus the gladiator who having with-
stood the repeated attacks of his antagonist during
the day and knowing that the morrow would bring
~~his~~ defeat, shame and death, escaped in the darkness of
night. The loss of the English is estimated at 2,700; that
of the French 9,000; and that of the Russians during
the bombardment and assault at 35,000 killed,
wounded, and taken prisoners, the French
and English since the capture have buried
no less than 11,000 ~~Wounded~~ ^{Wounded}. Since I wrote last
I have been over Sebastopol, I cannot at this
time describe it fully ~~but~~ but shall have that
pleasure at some future period, it is a perfect
map of batteries, the houses ^{and} buildings both
public and private are riddled with shot and shell
thousand of which lay in every direction all over the City

RAMC 339/2

December 1st 1855
 Champs Elysees Paris

My Dear Aunt and Cousins

You no doubt have thought me very negligent, or been at a loss to conjecture the cause of my long Silence; undoubtedly I merit your censure for not having long ere this answered your affectionate and pretty letter: but the truth is, I could not have done so without referring to a passage therein, which demanded an explanation and which at that time I was unable to give; that difficulty now no longer exists. I therefore find great pleasure in giving you a full and faithful account, of what has occurred in reference to myself, and the person who has been the indirect cause of the delay. Although I wish to make my confessions as short as possible, I cannot well do so without referring to the early part of my life. You will remember that before my Brother went to Sea, he was in Service in Bond Street, consequently in London: with whom myself was then living I now disremember, this I know, that it was very soon after the death of my parents: myself and William had been on a visit to Camberwell, and on our return we called on Aunt Hudson then living in Granby St Waterloo Road; I remember perfectly well it was late in the Evening, and very chilly. — You know Aunt Hudson and her family were then all strangers to me — how greatly their happy smiling faces contrasted with my forlorn condition, however we passed the night there. Although so young I was fully sensible of my bereavement

a rather misapprehension that home, which some but those who have lost a Brother can know the extent of their loss at the age I was then; for I felt more after my parent than you were aware of; for years their image, and my life were ever present before me thrown upon the world, among strangers, whose treatment oftentimes was anything but just; not before, but after I left Barnes did the most wretched portion of my life commence: I found about four plain, ^{and} for many, many months without home or habitation. I will change the subject or you will think me both discontented and unhappy, or not for a moment imagine me oppressed with either; I however must do you the justice to say, that had it not been for your mother's protection, since the death of my parents up to the present day, or had I been left to the care of others, it should not stand I flatter myself I am an honour to my family and what is more as a Christian; but on the other hand most probably be as ignorant as a Chippinham Indian. Has I said before ~~that~~ ~~xxxx~~ Aunt Eliza and her family were at that time all strangers to me; but there was one I will remember who treated me very kindly and here, and her kindness I have never forgot, that one was Elizabeth. When in America in recalling to mind my early follies and misfortunes, I have often thought of her, though not in the same light as now; and on my return to England I was pleased to find her Brother living with William (our family). I immediately enquired after both Mary Ann and Elizabeth, to my surprise William and Susan, gave me to understand they did not wish me to become more acquainted than I already was by relationships (i.e.) they did not wish me to see her. However, I determined in company with Robert to pay her a visit, by some means or other ~~we~~ ~~xxxx~~ I was disappointed, and much to my after regret left London without

seeing her. On my second visit to London I was more fortunate, and during the short time I was in her company I found her all I had heard, and all I imagined; intelligent, amiable, and exceedingly pleasing. And from that time (our mutual love forgotten) ^{the time} to the present I have had her constantly in my thoughts as a relative I was very proud of; and a person with whom I was most anxious to become ^{more} acquainted with; how far my dream has proved a reality you now know. Week after week, month after month have I regularly received letters from her full of feeling and consolation; how, when entirely forsaken (I may say forgotten) by him who should have rendered me all the consolation in his power during the past winter of sickness ^{and} ^{and} in its most hideous form: Elizabeth like a fond Sister performs the part which most naturally and as a duty ought to have been his. You of course know myself and Brother (as we are joined to say) have been at Exeter for months past. Elizabeth will tell you the particulars of our arrangement. So yourself, Brother and Elizabeth are I indebted for what happiness I may have enjoyed since the war commenced, and to Elizabeth's comforting letters, together with your own. Have I been enabled to bear up against what I have gone through. Elizabeth has been to me a Father as a very dear Sister, and one to whom I am indebted for life; it is for this reason, knowing each other's sentiments and feelings and fully believing we know each the other's mind, that I presume to disregard of your permission to address her, other than as "My Cousin."

hear in mind that I ask this of you both, is the
greatest boon it will ever lay in your power to
bestow, also that I am now enabled to purchase
my liberty, should I please God live to return
and with His help and industry live respectably.
it is needless to add with what feverish anxiety
I shall await your answer, whether that answer
be in accordance with my wishes or not, do not let
that love which I have known ~~you~~ you to have
for me during my lifetime; diminish one iota. for if
forsaken, or should I ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~loose~~ ^{lose} your esteem
then indeed I may despair.
You may remember I have before said; that I will
never marry but with your approval, again I say the
same; but are you ~~disapprove~~ ^{disapprove} of my past conduct, or rather
~~deny~~ me what I ask, consider this pain such a refusal
will occasion not to myself alone, but to another who
anxiously awaits your favourable answer; for know
our love is reciprocal whether I return next month,
or years hence; it is the same, with your permission.
Remember me with all love to Aunt Harriet
William and Sophia, also to Mary Ann and her family.
Tell my Cousin (your son) that I am sorry I have
nothing to send him from this outlandish Country but
a shot and shell but when I reach one more civilized I will
make him a present I enclose a small piece of ribbon be-
longing to my medal to wear on his dress in memory of his Cousin.
P.S. I have posted with this one for Elizabeth who will give you any information
respecting the war - my Brother &c.

RAMC 339/2 February 4th 1836
Sebastopol

My Dear Aunt and Cousin

I am rejoiced to be able to say
I have nearly recovered from my
Accident; it has proved worse than
I represented, the bone being slightly
fractured. I am otherwise enjoying
my usual excellent health, and am
happy in the anticipation of a
speedy return to dear old England;
for here, we are making sure of Peace
Oh, how fondly hope we will not
be disappointed. It is exceedingly
amusing to listen to the ridiculous
rumours among the men, in many
instances emanating from Officers.
at one time the Guard and Light
Divisions are to pass through Paris
on our way to London.

At Another - we are to proceed to
Constantinople to partake of a
dinner given by the Sultan before
we set sail for England; at another
we are to remain and clear the Camp
of stores &c. after the rest of the Army
has gone, and receive additional pay.
While some assert that the conferences
have ended in smoke, and that it is
over to the knife; others maintain
that the proclamation of peace
has been read throughout the united
kingdoms: therefore you perceive we
can believe in nothing we hear
except in the Whiz and Bang of shot
and shell whenever we go into
Sebastopol for fuel: which plainly
tells us; that if in England there is
a suspension of Ministerial mea-
sures - pen and Ink; here at

least powder and shot are still
doing its deadly work. Why a night or
two past the Russians opened at New
St. M. on Sebastopol, as heavy a fire
as I can remember on any former
night during the siege: which continued
for nearly an hour; what their object
was remains a mystery.

At one o'clock this day the 4th the
whole of the public buildings in
Sebastopol were destroyed, I counted
five terrific explosions; the Russians
on the opposite side appeared bewildered
during the time the destruction of their
beautiful City was going on: but no
sooner had the smoke cleared off
than they opened a very heavy fire
on all who came within range
of their guns. I shall go into Sebastopol
tomorrow, and will send you an
account of what I see in my next.

I hope this will find you well
also my cousin Kathrine and
my little pet Henry: remember me
with all love to my Aunt Utting
and my cousins Sophia and Mary-
ann; assure Elizabeth of my health
and happiness with my wishes for
her speedy restoration to health.
And with all love and earnest
wishes for your health, happiness,
and comfort; believe me ever
your affectionate, dutiful,
and loving Son W. W. W.

P.S. I have the honour of sing-
ing before the generals and their
Staff once a week in the Theatre
Royal Light Division. I am also
a member of the orchestral band.
All this is of material service to me
as it will initiate me for the duties
of a Theatrical Musician in any return.

RAMC 339/2

March 9th 1856
Sebastopol

My Dear Aunt

Elizabeth tells me you were suffering with a cold when last she saw you; I greatly fear you do not take sufficient care of yourself and particularly this time of the year when colds are so easily to be had. I trust yours has not been so severe but that long ere this reaches England you will have perfectly recovered from its effects. Many days have elapsed since the date of my last letter viz February 4th but you know my dear Aunt it is not lack of love which has kept me thus long silent, for had I any news to send you nothing would have pleased me more than to have written; even now, I have little to say

that will interest you
but knowing that at
all times it pleases you
to know how the world
is using me, so ~~do~~ not
think you are forgotten
for that you very well
know I can never do, whom
have I left in the world
who is or has been a
greater friend to me
through life than your-
self. Oh no, never for a
moment believe that
I can either forget or
cease to respect and
love you as my best
friend - as my good mo-
ther. I am enjoying my
usual excellent health
and spirits, and joyously
looking forward to better
times in my dear native
land. I have received my
bar for Sebastopol, I have
now two bars to my medal
Alma and Sebastopol. They
have offered me promotion
which I have declined,
stating as the reason my

intention of leaving the
Regiment on reaching England
they tell me I shall find some
difficulty in doing so
unless they find some person
to take my place, it is my
intention of applying per-
sonally (not as is generally
done in such a case to the
commanding officer)
but at the War Office.
The armistice begins on the
first and is to last until the
end of the present month
On Sunday the 3^d after divine
service I went to the Valley
of Inkerman, and had a look
at the Russians. The first
object that drew my attention
was the skeleton of one
lying under a low bushy
tree, the poor fellow had
evidently after being
wounded crawled there
and died of starvation
for he was far away
from the battle field of

Intermarriage and further still
found that of the Thurner
by the side of a Musquet,
a sword, and a Cap and Pipe
by the further end of a cane across
the old damaged houses of another
and on my return I saw several
Rural figures. The Russians
were exceedingly civil and
when I told them I had had
the names of several of their
brother officers who were
taken prisoners at Alma
and Balaclava and Tchernawa
and mentioned their names
"some of whom they knew"
they were still more polite
and friendly. I hoped the
war was at an end - said the
English were very brave
but had bad officers - after
partaking of coffee and cigars
with them I retraced my steps
towards camp. There were
many groups of English,
French, and Russians and
Russians and English and
- sitting together, exchanging
news, pipes and cigarettes.
In going to the house I had
seen a large number of many

RAMC 339/2

March 24th/56
Sebastopol

My Dear Aunt

It was my intention
of sending you a letter
this mail, but the
truth is I was un-
expectedly ordered on
a duty I little expect-
ed where I have been
busily performing
from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 A.M. until
6 P.M. this Evening now-
day, March 24th. During the
continuance of horse-
-racing in the Valley
of the Tchernaya. I am
consequently very much
fatigued and cannot

send you a letter this
mail but will do so
by the next. I pray
God you are well as is
your very dutiful and
fond Nephew
~~William~~

P.S. I have the kind-
ness to forward the
enclosed as soon as
convenient to my
cousin Mary Ann.
at Greenwich.

March 29th/56
Sebastopol

My Dr Aunt

This is probably the last letter you will receive from me for some time; as, in the event of peace we shall most likely be the first to embark; and should the war continue we shall immediately commence active operations either here or in Asia. So you perceive that in either case it may be difficult perhaps impossible to write as often as we could wish; but believe I will do so as often as I can. Therefore let not my involuntary silence cause you any uneasiness. — I cannot forget you — for I assure you that at all times you are ever present in my thoughts.

I pray God this will find
you well and happy and
free from care and sorrow.
I feel grieved and disappointed
in my Brother not having
answered my letter for I
made all the reparations the
case warranted I can and shall
do no more, for I consider that
I have already humbled my-
self more than I ought to have
done, and certainly more than
I should do again for few others
in a similar case. When I con-
sider the disgrace - shame -
and humiliation I underwent
I am positive that no person
professing himself a Christian
or having a single atom of
respect for himself or others
would under any circumstances
have tolerated such a disgusting
vulgar fellow as was this friend
or messenger of my Brother's. There
is only one thing in particular
against which I do not consider
myself proof and that is -

Redicule and of that I had a
good share during his stay and
and for long after his departure.
I will not attempt to describe my
feelings during that period for
it would be difficult for me
to do so, suffice it to say that
my anger exceeded my discretion.
Hence our rupture, for the
which I am now not only sorry
but very much pained, ^{and particularly so} ~~and~~ find
him so callous to that love
which he knew I always bore him.
I hope he is well and so long
as I live he has my prayers
for his health - happiness
and reformation. Still I
can never forget the super-
cilious manner in which
he wished to have his sen-
timents expressed in reference
to my last letter through the
medium of his wife's sister-
in-law, with whom I temporary
corresponded. His message was as
follows - I need not write to him
any more, for if I did he should

Not answer my letters and if I
came home to England he
should forbid ^{me} his house.
So you see an éclaircissement
is now further off than ever
I hope my dear Aunt and Cousin
Nancy are well. I have not heard
from them for some time
their last letter, I received on the
18th of January. Give them my
love, with my wishes for their
health and happiness. Remember
me also to my Cousin Mary Ann
and tell her it is my intention
with her permission to pay her
a visit should I return to England
this summer. My Cousin Katharine
and Henry I hope are well. You
so seldom mention my Aunt Bradford
that I imagine you as seldom see
her; but I suppose your ~~as set~~ ex-
-cursions are so limited and short
that you do not ^{often} venture that far.
however I hope she is well. I sent
her two letters since I left England
to neither of which I received an
answer. "How I long to see you all."
Praying God to have you in His holy
care I am as ever -
Yours affectionate
Nephew
J. S. Give my love
to Elizabeth - I shall
send her a letter next mail

August 1st 1857

Dublin

My Dear Aunt

W. 4/5
I sail on
Wednesday

I cannot leave Europe without expressing how grievously ^{regretful} the oppressive silence that has so long existed between us. What has been the cause it is easily and simply answered. Viz.

On my part a just pride knowing myself wholly innocent of intentionally giving you cause of offence. — on yours, erroneous impressions derived from my calumniating and unnatural sister-in-law; together, with great misapprehension of my past conduct, subsequent to my discharge; in respect to that conduct; know, that I was carried away by the tide of events and circumstances over which I had little or no control. and in acting as I have done was against your

wishes and expectations—hence my offence
and cause of your displeasure. I can view
conscientiously my conduct for many years
back with complacency, but certainly not
with pain or regret. I have brought no disgrace
on the family to which I belong; I have done
my duty to the best of my ability, both to
my God and Country, and fear naught.
What evil disposed persons may say of me.

Bid you who have known me from a child
and who has had so many convincing proofs
of my unceasing affection in the regular
correspondance, and knowledge of my conduct
and character for at least the past 10 years
can you I say deliberately cast off and condemn
me—the last of your Brother's unfortunate
family at the suggestion of a bad and
contemptible woman: picture to yourself

what my feelings must be, about to leave
the home of my childhood—my dear native
land for ever; and for what? not to
seek a fortune in Australia, but to
again brave the dangers of the battle
field, without a friend who cares one
iota what becomes of me, whether I fall
in battle, or perish on a scaffold.

There can be no dissimulation—no
hypocrisy in what now write, it is
the overflowings of an oppressed and
broken spirit. What has been the whole
of my past life; but a series of troubles, hardships
trials and disappointments; and what better
does the future hold out. Think you I feel
not most poignantly the loss of the good
opinion of her who through all has ever
been my best and only friend—a
mother, believe me I do. We shall meet

no more in this world, but I trust in the blood
of our compassionate Redeemer to meet
in a world where sorrow and trouble
are unknown. May God bless and love
you, and may your journey through ^{life} to the
close of your existence be sweet and happy.
Give my love to ~~my~~ Cousin Catharine and assure
her I shall ever remember with gratitude
her many kindnesses. My love to Aunt Utting
Sophia and Henry may God bless and take them
into His Holy keeping. But Elizabeth, ~~her~~ who is
dearer to me than life - if ever you loved me - for the
love you bore my father; be to her I humbly implore
you - a comforter - a friend - a mother.
consider her forlorn and unhappy position
and for my sake act as I pray of you; until I
can protect and keep her - and the orphans
in years to come shall bless your memory

Farewell! God in Heaven bless
you — your prodigal Son
W. Weston

Licknow

March 23rd 1858

My Dear Aunt and Cousin

I have snatched a few moments to write and inform you of my health and safety. Through all the recent heavy attacks, I have escaped unhurt. And I trust in God you are all as healthy and happy as myself. I do not remember having ever enjoyed better health than that I have had since landing in India. Of course you have heard or will do so long before this reaches you of our success. Yes Licknow has fallen in with two or three days siege, and with it; some thousands of those uncivilized savages; the loss of

March 27th 1858
Lucknow
The English Army is not great;
that of my Regiment consists of one Captain, one lieutenant and one private killed and some 12 or 14 wounded. So you see my Regt has been very fortunate. I have just returned from chasing the rear-guard of the rebels, we came up with them some twenty-five miles from our present encamp-ground. To what station my Regt will be posted is at present impossible to tell: I fear it will be Lucknow but I hope not, for the effluvia arising from decaying bodies is already fearful, and the river on the banks of which I am now encamped is full of Sepoys, there is some truth in it - horses, oxen and Camels all in a state of decomposition; for Barrielly some 130 odd you can therefore imagine my impatience to be again on the march. It is rumoured my Regt (when all is settled) will proceed to Australia. I fear "no such luck." I trust the world is using

could have been a most in-
-doubtful hope necessary does
-not require any con-
-siderable indulgence necessary
-large health and well-
-being. Remember me to
-Mother, Harry, and with all
-best wishes for their
-prosperity. I have since repented
-having returned to the army; if to
-you and never more of fault.
-What is England to a poor man? a
-land of drudgery, poverty and misery
-a land which I never wish to see
-again. I love my profession, as much
-as an artist does his.
-I am far more happier - contented
-and richer than ever I was, or
-should be in England. Then for ever
-farewell say to England yes and with a

RAME 339

Tristan, Jan^y 1833.

Dear Mrs Thoms,

How is it you
never send a line to an old
favourite. I have written se-
veral times; but have heard
only once, I think, from my
old friend, since I left England.
I constantly hear of you; but
it wd give me still more plea-
sure, some times to hear from
you. I am glad you are some-

what comfortably settled near
dear old London once more.

You have chosen a beautiful
part of its outskirts; the most
beautiful I think. Now I
should like to give you a call.
Possibly some day I may, but
at present it is not very prob-
able. As usual I must re-
fer you to Sophy & my sister
for news. These young folks
always keep me busy gossiping
about myself enough for every one.

I am entitled to rank with you
among their elders now for I

am grey-headed & toothless.

I send these few lines just
to assure you, I have not
forgotten an old friend who
has not, I am sure, forgotten
me; tho I think she has forgot-
ten how to use pen, ink, & paper.
Their best use is in writing to old
friends; such as with sincere love,
ever will remain,

Yours truly,
W. F. Taylor.

My very kind regards to Mrs
Bradysan; & love to her little boy,
now growing a big one I suppose.

I am entitled to make such use
among other things now for
an opportunity to do so.
I send these few lines
to inform you, I have been
forgot to an old friend with
has not been sure, perhaps
we; for I think he was right
for how to use him, and, I hope
their but see is in writing to all
friends; such as to the same
over with some, of course, I think
the very best regards to all
I hope you; I have to the best
of my power; and as I am

after the letters you send me.

RAME 339

It is too bad to have your hand forged, & impudence you not have thought of inserted in them. But now, my dear friend, I must say good bye, & with very many kind regards, & many prayers for God's blessing & protection, remain ever,
Dear Mrs. Thoms, Yours very faithfully,
W. F. Taylor.

It was with very, very much pleasure that I received, the other

day, a few lines once more from you, one of my very oldest friends. It wd grieve me that you shd really think

I had forgotten you, your kindness to myself, when a boy, & your long friendship with my dear Mother, will never suffer me to do that. I wd have written more often, & more fully; but you know we cannot always do all we wd. For two long years I never heard

from one soul dear to me at home. It was then difficult, even painful, in such uncertainty, to ^{set down} write to them. Then, when news came, I never heard from you, though I did hear about you, yet once or twice I sent a line or two for you, to remind you of myself. But it is very difficult, in our little remote spot, to keep up any thing like a regular correspondence. I hope soon to be where, at any rate, I may be able to correspond more regularly with you all. I had indeed some hope, at one time, of soon seeing you all again; but that is very doubtful now. It is just possible another year may see me in London; but it is much more probable that it will still be some years ere I see you again. All is in God's hands. A soldier of the Queen must not desert his

calling in the hour of need; much less must a soldier of the King of kings. And if you ^{could} see the blessed change wrought here, you would say there was much need of my presence. But there is one blessed meeting place surely to come. God grant we may all meet in safety there; both we who are left here, & those who are gone.

I was indeed sorry to hear how suddenly my dear friend was taken from you; but I sincerely trust that he is not lost, but gone before.

I am quite ashamed of a certain lady for her neglect of you. My poor sister has, I know, as much as she can possibly get through, & more than she ought to have to occupy her. But that a certain niece of yours should so scandalously neglect you

is shameful. I mean to lecture her well up
about it. But, poor thing, it is perhaps because
old age is creeping so fast upon her; & per-
haps therefore she deserves pity rather than
blame.

Please to remember me kindly to my first,
though quickly forsaken, bride elect. Tell her
I have ^{not} forgotten old times. How I shd like
to see her boy. Give the love & blessing of
an old friend of his mother's to him; & wish him many happy returns
of the day for me, next month. Does
he promise to be, like herself, a may-pole?

The children here are all terribly tall. I think
they must all be descended from the Shudons.

Do you remember our all being measured
that evening, long ago? I think it was the same
night that the wedding was all arranged.

Please give my kind regards to my old friend Mr.
Savage, & all others who still remember me. As to
the old maids, after Miss Stopperton's going off the list,
I think none need despair. There may even be a chance
for the two who meet to mourn so often at Wood-
ford Cottage. Do pray have a match ready against
my return. I shd rejoice to have my services required
for one of them. But I must beg you to look carefully

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P.S. Give my love to
Harry and tell him
this is the country to make
his fortune. Sutanpoore.
Augth 24th 1868

My Dear Aunt and Cousin

I flattered myself on leaving Europe
that all differences arising from my
reentering the Army were at an end;
judging from the contents of your
letter of July - 59; but I have long
since found out my mistake; I am
also conscious that those feelings
of affection which for so many years
you were wont to exhibit, and which
I at all times was ever most happy
to acknowledge and return; have,
since my enlistment (on your
part) undergone a very great change
I do not doubt, but that in a great measure
the columns of my dear Sister-in-law

has very much biased your long
neglect of me, however I have regularly
been informed ^{of your} health and well-being
through the medium of Elizabeth.
She indeed has been an ^{angel} to me
through this trying war; and through
her I am assured and soothed with
knowledge that there is one who
will neither forsake or deceive me.
Yes: even her, who for four long
years (through me) has borne suspense
and disappointment without a
murmur. But blessed be God the time
is fast approaching when I hope
to repay (as far as in me lies) the
deep debt I owe her; brighter days are
already opening upon us, and
we long I hope to attain that
happiness which will end only

with our lives, for it is now in
my power to send for her as soon
as all is quiet, or when the flag
is settled. — and if I think proper
can return to Europe at the con-
clusion of the war. Therefore wonder
not if I say, I am contented — happy
— hearty and well. With so a bright
future before me, what more
can I require, I am at peace.

I have now been in India 18 months, and
during that time have marched nearly two
thousand miles, — without seeing a bed.
I have borne the heat of the hottest
part of the year, viz. from April to
August — and during those hot months
have been continually on the march
at times parched with thirst and almost
choked with dust, and each month
consequently encountered and routed
the enemy.

In March - I was at the Siege and Capture of Lucknow
for which I am to receive a Medal and clasp.

April - Action at Beesie or Berry -

May - Do at Ruggott -

June - Do at Nawabghunge.

July - Marched from Nawabghunge and
routed at Fyzabad a collection of rebels to
the number of 30 thousand.

August 16th Marched 36 miles under
torrents of rain and up to our knees
in mud and water to our present
encampment (Altanpore) where are
assembled 20 thousand rebels, (The river
Gomtee dividing us) and whom we
expect to give battle tomorrow, although
we are not 6000 fighting of
all ranks. Through all this most trying
campaign by God's goodness and mercy
I have not been one day in Hospital.
And to this Merciful God I commend
you - praying ^{for} his protection - guidance
and love until we meet again ^{if not on earth} (hope) in
a better world. Act C. L. M. W.

An Evening Hymn of Home

Lord, we pray thy grace may come
Down this night upon our home;
Be we by our Father blest,
Smile thou on thy children's rest.

Lord in thee united are
All things near and all afar
Therefore in our suppliant tones
Pray we for our absent ones.

While to Heaven we send our prayer,
Bid theirs also meet ours there,
And like showers of fruitful rain
On each other drop again.

Father ere we go to rest
With one blessing be we blest
So tho' parted we may be
We are all at home in Thee.

H. W. Bridgman. Aged 12 Years
10 6 months.
Jan 5th 1863.