

## **Papers relating to Ann Bennett**

### **Publication/Creation**

1885 - 1886

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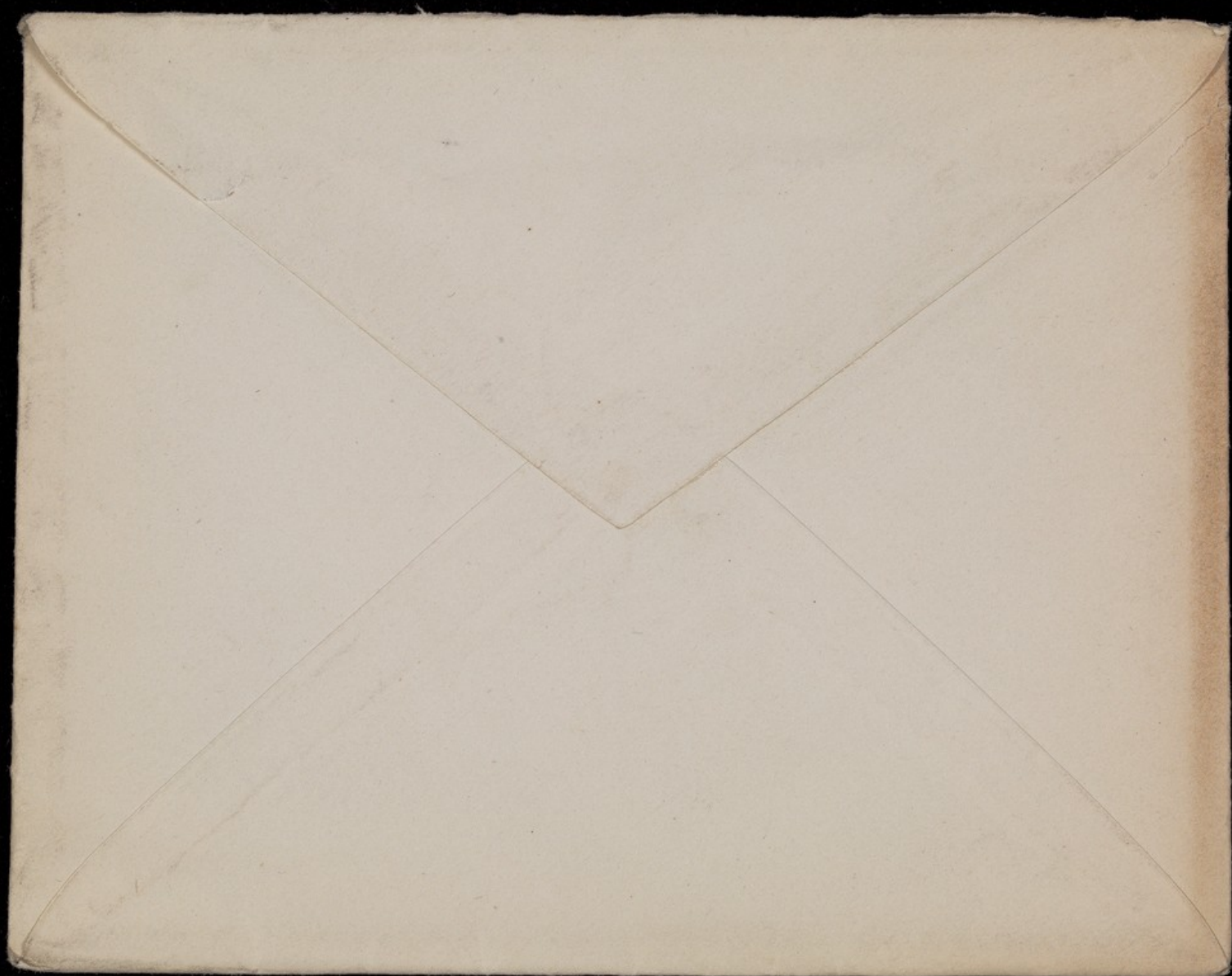
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Mr Bennett  
2 Rose Cottages  
Clevedon  
Somerset

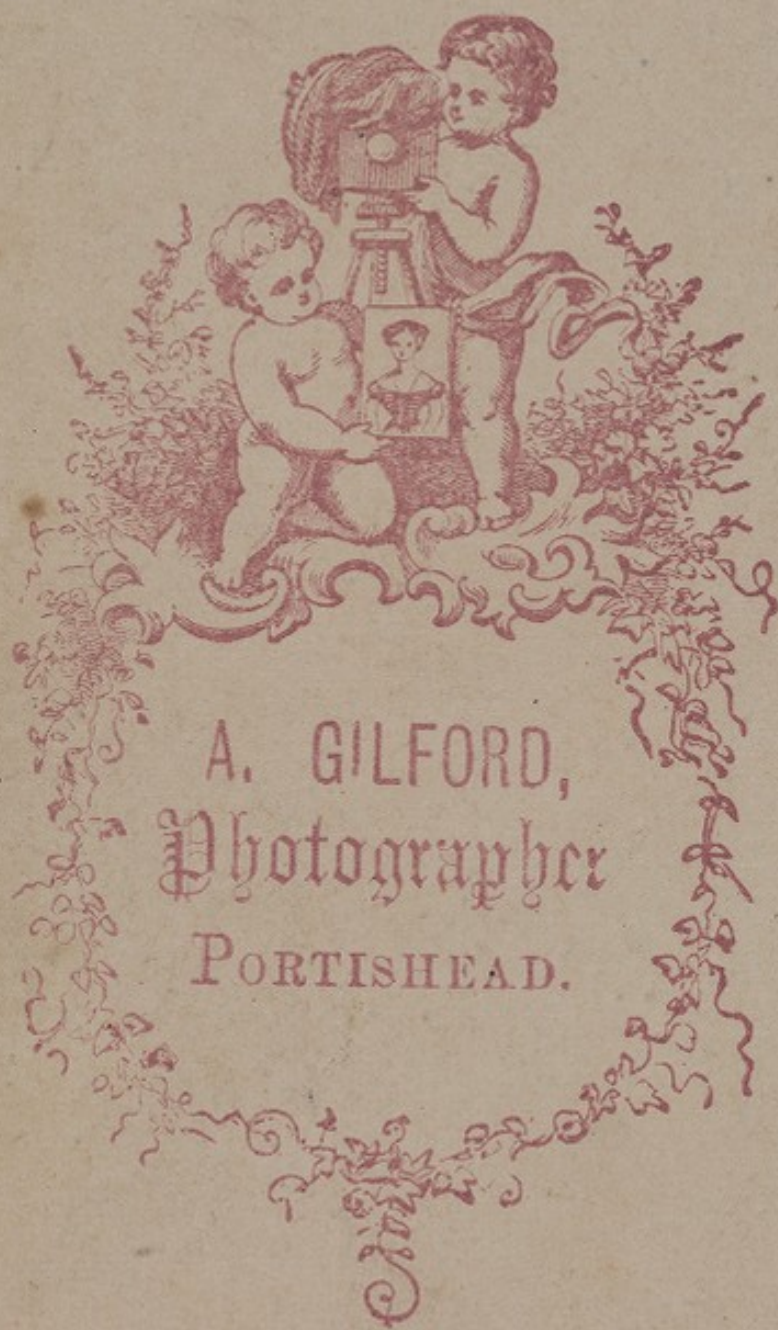








No. \_\_\_\_\_



A. GILFORD,  
Photographer  
PORTISHEAD.

*Copies can always be had.*

Miss Millard  
Milborne  
Malmesbury  
Wilt.

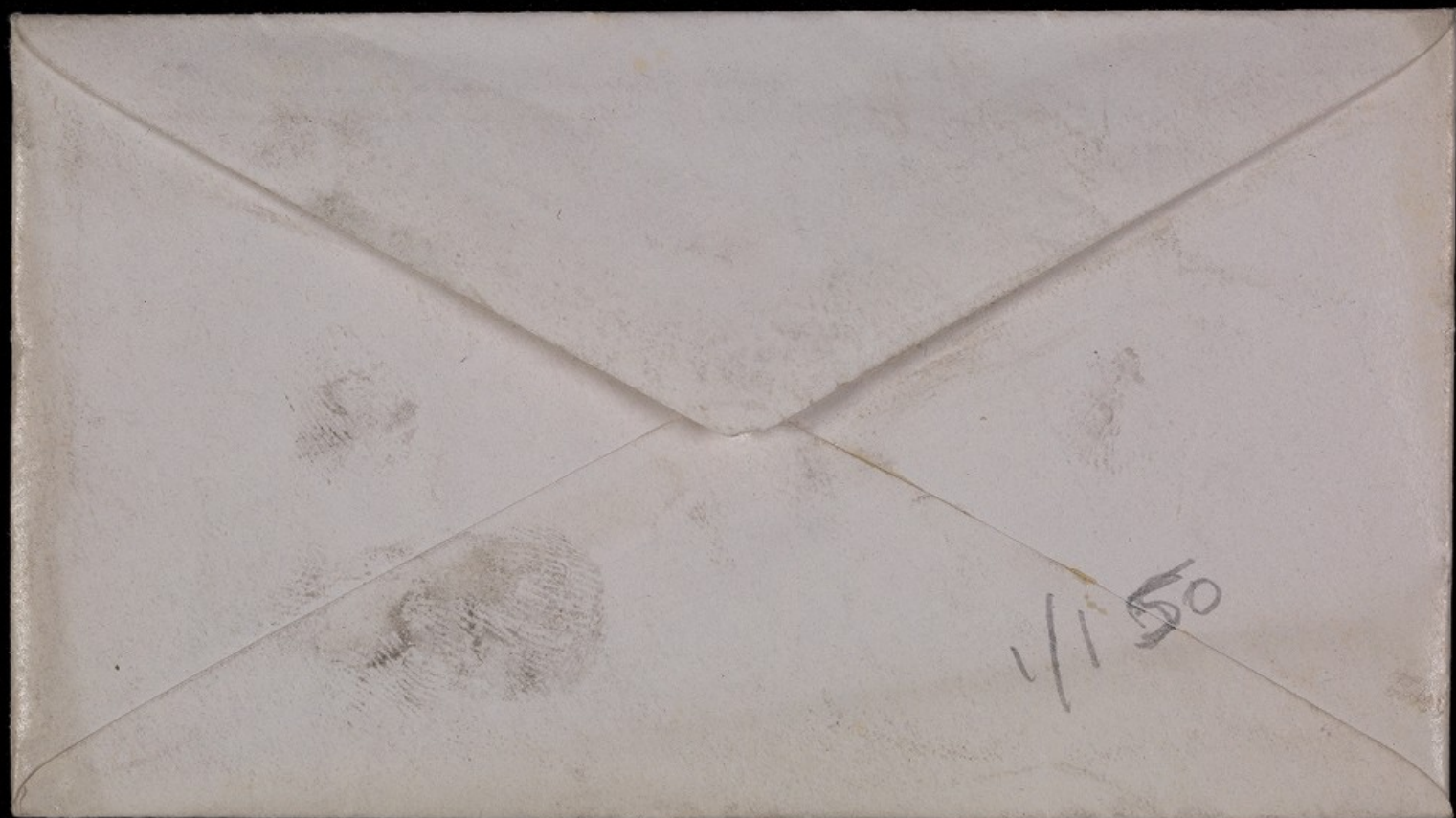


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Miss Millard  
Milborne  
Malmesbury.  
Wilt.







Mr. Bennett  
Clevedon  
Bristol  
Somerset







1/56

Mr. Bennett  
2 Rose Cottages  
Clevedon  
Somerset









Mr Bennett  
2 Rose Villa,  
Clevedon  
Somerset

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Mr. Millard  
Melbourne  
Malinsbury  
Wiltshire

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Miss Millard  
Melborne  
Malmesbury  
Wilt.

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Mrs Millard  
Milborne.  
Mabnsbury  
Wilts







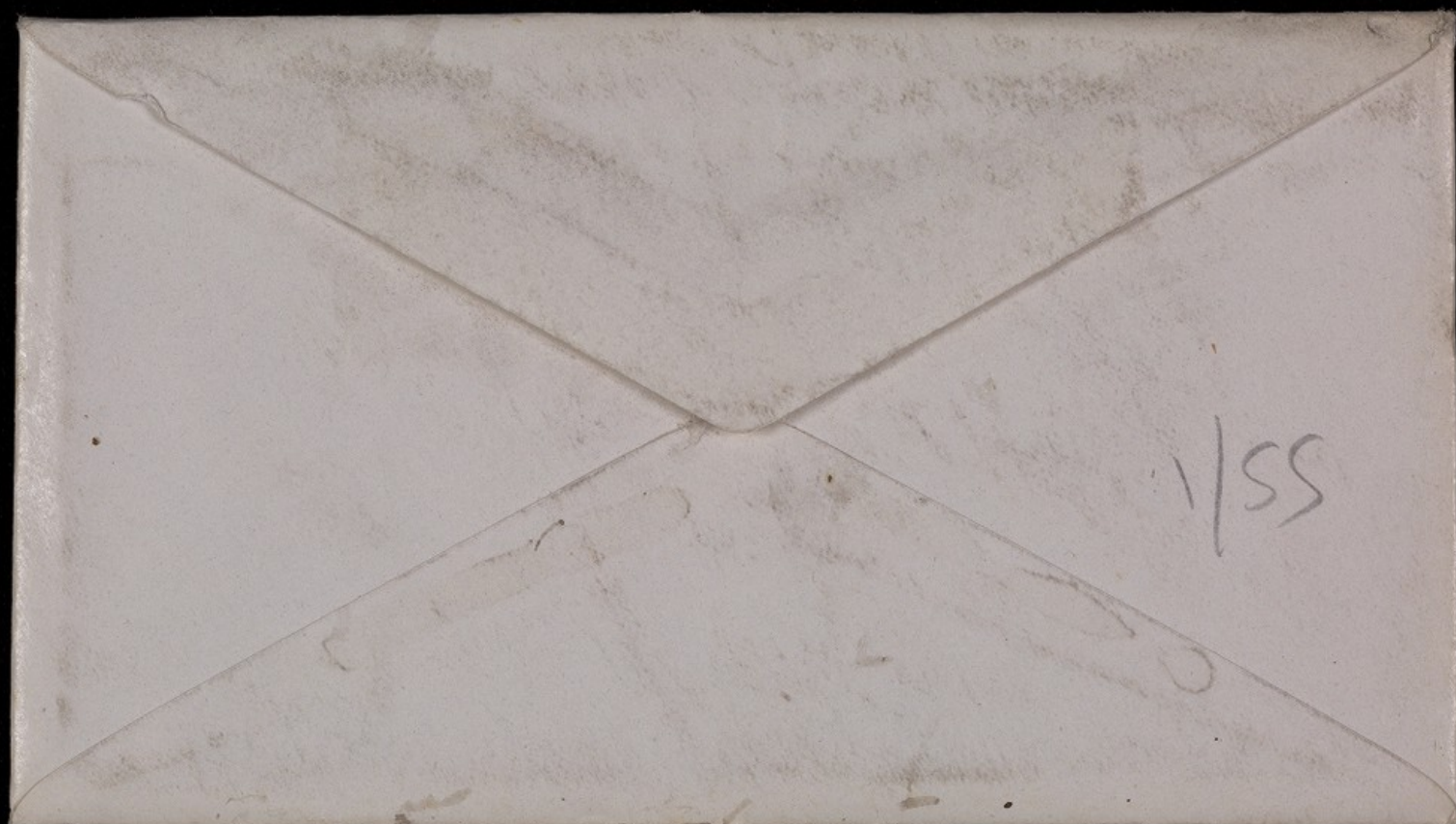
Lindley W. Bennett

Mr Ashley

Lidcot

Weston super Mare

Somerset





1/SS



York  
22. 11. 85-

My darling Lindley

I scarcely suppose  
you are allowed to have  
fireworks on the Fifth  
of November, I saw no-  
thing of any but we are  
a little way out of the  
City. Yesterday we could  
see from the Salbon sum-  
mit quite a large fire  
blazing in the distant  
fields, it must have  
been a heap of dry rubbish



I am glad you are  
fond of farming in the  
fames, there was such  
a number of little boys  
playing football in a  
Moor which joins the  
ground, they seemed to  
be thoroughly enjoying  
themselves, many of them  
from their dress I judged  
belonged either to a school  
or club. We are having two  
Tennis ground made one  
for Winter another Summer  
play. In a letter I rec<sup>d</sup>  
from Beatrice she tell



My Auntie Berrie has  
invited her to spend the  
holidays with them. You  
must be looking forward  
to the holidays which  
will so soon arrive;

I am just now thinking  
of the thrill of pleasure  
going home for the holidays  
brought me when at school  
Oswald will be grown  
quite a little companion  
for you, You must  
write when you have  
seen them all, tell me



what progress Oswald  
and Lillian are making  
I had quite a pleasant  
walk Saturday week,  
we passed through Is-  
lington quite a homely  
little village, nearly  
all the houses have a  
few flowers in front  
and over most of them  
grows a Clematis, which  
looks very pretty in  
the summer with  
very very much love  
from your fond  
Mother A Bernette

York  
31. 1. 86

My husband

You became acquainted with the contents of my sister letter by what would be considered a dishonorable proceeding. my letter always bore my hand. addressed & sealed  
I do not make family difference a topic of



conversation, Dr Baker  
has had a talk with  
me regarding your pro-  
posal, I cannot comply  
with it, in the last  
letter I received from  
you, you say, you are  
willing to make any ar-  
rangement, the one I  
propose, and the only  
one I will consent too



is that I shall be  
free to go to my own  
family relatives, of my  
welfare you will ever  
be acquainted by my  
correspondence with my  
children, which I wish  
you to consent shall  
be always left un-  
trammelled, with a  
promise from me  
that I never allude

to our separation, with  
yourself I wish all  
correspondence to cease,  
there are a few things  
I wish you to commit  
to the care of my brother  
Frederick, namely,  
Teapot & stand, Jug, Basin,  
Cake tin, biscuit barrel,  
Chest containing fork knife & fork  
silver spoon, butter knife  
toast rack, Pickle stand,  
Cruet stand, Mother of  
Pearl tea caddy, work box,  
Scotts Balm, a quilt  
Mamma worked,  
I shall ever study the  
welfare of the children  
Annie Bennett



York

17. 12. 85

My darling Jeannie!

How delightful it must be to be in the midst of a Bazaar excitement again. I recollect what an amount of fun you extracted from the last, you appear to be quite as fortunate in the contribution you are rearing toward this one, it will be rather fatiguing to preside at the Hall 3 following days how very considerate of Lady Suffolk to offer you all the flower for decoration, I suppose the cut flower you offer for sale, the ferns in Pot. and be lent I presume. As you wish me to give you an idea of my reason for deciding to separate from H.B. I will begin by saying H. Baker told the Commissioner he came home from Canada to please me. I never since have had any



thing that was not to please  
himself, so self absorbed was  
he that gentlemen called me  
a splinter and treated me as  
such, as a consequence his  
mind may be expressed by  
a couple of lines from my  
French grammar. La jalouse  
est un mélange d'amour et d'  
haine de crainte et de despo  
no one before I became a  
wife ever insulted me or  
questioned my virtue, your  
accusation that I could not  
have truly forgiven him and  
live apart will not bear  
dissection, I hope you will  
consider all the degradation  
of the position in wh<sup>ch</sup> he  
has placed me until you  
realize it, my forgiveness  
would arise from our Lord's  
statement if ye forgive not  
men their trespasses neither  
will your Heavenly Father  
forgive <sup>you</sup> your trespassers



but the reproach that accom-  
panied seclusion as a lunatic  
will never during my life  
be unassociated with my  
name, I should like very  
much to accompany you  
to New Zealand if it is as  
easy to obtain a situation  
there as in Winnipeg there  
would be no difficulty after  
my arrival, after Lady was  
born I wished Jeanette to  
go to a Mother's help finding  
she could obtain higher wages  
than I was prepared to give  
her she easily found a place  
at 15 dollar a month she  
was treated as a member  
of the family and was very  
happy there and she was  
not a girl of much ability.  
Well dear I hope this is the  
last letter in which any allu-  
sion will be made to



Y<sup>r</sup> or his friends, unless it  
is impossible to avoid doing  
so in connection with any  
arrangements that may be  
made. I hope also you will  
correspond with Dr. Butler  
until a view to my dismissal  
other than could be settled  
where I am with my own  
friends. Make amends for  
the past by present practical  
sympathy. And now I will  
tell you what Coleridge  
defines as true human love  
two hearts like two correspond-  
ent concave mirrors having  
a common focus, while each  
reflects and magnifies the  
other, and in the other itself  
is an endless reduplication  
by sweet thought and sym-  
paty. We should fit you  
& Theo Fred & Kate give my love  
to her when you next write enclose  
the photo of y<sup>r</sup> self Kate & Ellen I  
return it if you cannot spare it till  
we ~~entirely~~



York  
18. 2. 86

My darling Janie

Why have you  
ceased writing to me  
D. Baker has promised  
my letter shall in the  
future go direct to you.  
he has written to you  
and received no answer  
although he would much  
rather you had come  
I see no use in your

coming unless it had been  
to take one away and  
your silence I take as  
meaning you are not  
willing I should leave  
but with my husband  
will and what is the  
consequence I told D. Baker  
today I would accept  
my husband's term and  
since have been crying  
all day with the pros-  
pect of coming into the  
world again from an



Asylum could I have  
gone right away with  
you to New Zealand and  
been interested in new  
surrounding it, would  
have been different  
and then. I am so ter-  
ribly disappointed we  
did not make a home  
in Canada. I dare say  
for the children sake  
it was better to have  
returned but for my-  
self, shall I trust my



self again to the care of  
one who has had so little  
power to take care of one  
so I feel that though living  
together there will be no  
sympathy, no trust, & he  
settled in with a house  
keeper I could very much  
prefered seeing a clear  
way of earning an independ-  
ent living and I think  
it would have been most  
conducive to health, could it  
have been possible, may  
Janee darling I have no  
joy in the prospect of leaving  
you your loving friend  
Anne Berners  
write by return



York  
23. 3. 86

My very dear Fred

I have consented  
to leave the Retreat with  
Mr Bennett although  
my aversion to doing so  
has not one bit abated  
if possible it has intensi-  
fied, you say for the  
childrens sake but if my  
health suffers, in what  
way will the children  
be benefited, could I take  
the children only, and  
had the means, or could  
see it possible for me

a devotion of character that has been through-  
out his past experience,  
and seeing that Timothy's influence in  
the living of Christ has a very pleasant  
way of giving information of the various  
places he has in his travels, among the  
nations and the enlightened men & women  
present erected in memory of Christopher  
Columbus in Genoa, he has the noble  
claim that was shown him very special  
honour during his life, but none since after  
his death, it seems to them that no one  
performing a spirit having commenced a  
balance among them, was deserving of such



to maintain them, my heart  
as a Mother would be over  
joyed, but will not Mr  
B get to imagine he is a  
working machine only sh<sup>d</sup>  
the children attack them  
selves to me too fondly,  
do not express pleasure at  
my decision, it is merely  
a trial and I quite antic-  
ipate its failure, although  
I do not fear my presence  
of mind forsaking me a-  
gain, I was delicate and  
in the power of a jealous  
madman, if I feel unable  
to control him I hope to  
be enabled to act well



possible need of money. It reminded me of what  
Barker thought of success upon the ground of  
a "groundless" wealth <sup>name</sup> as it were  
for "wealth" over the "groundless" as I have,  
I thought we are to have a new of Charles  
as of today a dance next Wednesday the 21st  
and I have another entertainment  
I hope not of a new of the "wealth" you  
wealth. I have not heard of a new of you  
as of today the "wealth" I have know we  
the of the "wealth" as I have that you advise  
I have heard of the "wealth" you could not  
with the "wealth" I have as I should  
last of the "wealth" I have as I should  
in you so that you have the "wealth" I have



York  
Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1886

Dear John

Last week I told  
Dr. Baker I would come  
home upon the terms  
you were willing to  
arrange, and asked  
him to write, but see  
from your letter he  
could not have done

When you have made  
arrangements for my  
leaving I wish you  
to let me know now  
so manage that when  
you come to the Retreat  
it shall be only in  
time to meet the  
train that takes us  
on our journey home



I suppose you would  
have to sleep one night  
in York and ascertain  
ing the earliest train  
we could leave by,  
on the following morn  
ing, come in & fly  
and we could go  
direct to the station  
I would have every

thing packed and  
he quite ready

with love

Annie Bennett



You need not fear my  
having unduly talked  
of Family affairs, although  
my protracted stay here  
may have provoked me  
to do so had I not trusted  
in God, the letters you  
speak of were only written  
at Dr. Baker's earnest request  
I have not intended from  
the first to return to you  
neither am I aware that  
those letters expressed a wish

To do

the

These

and

your

learn

it is

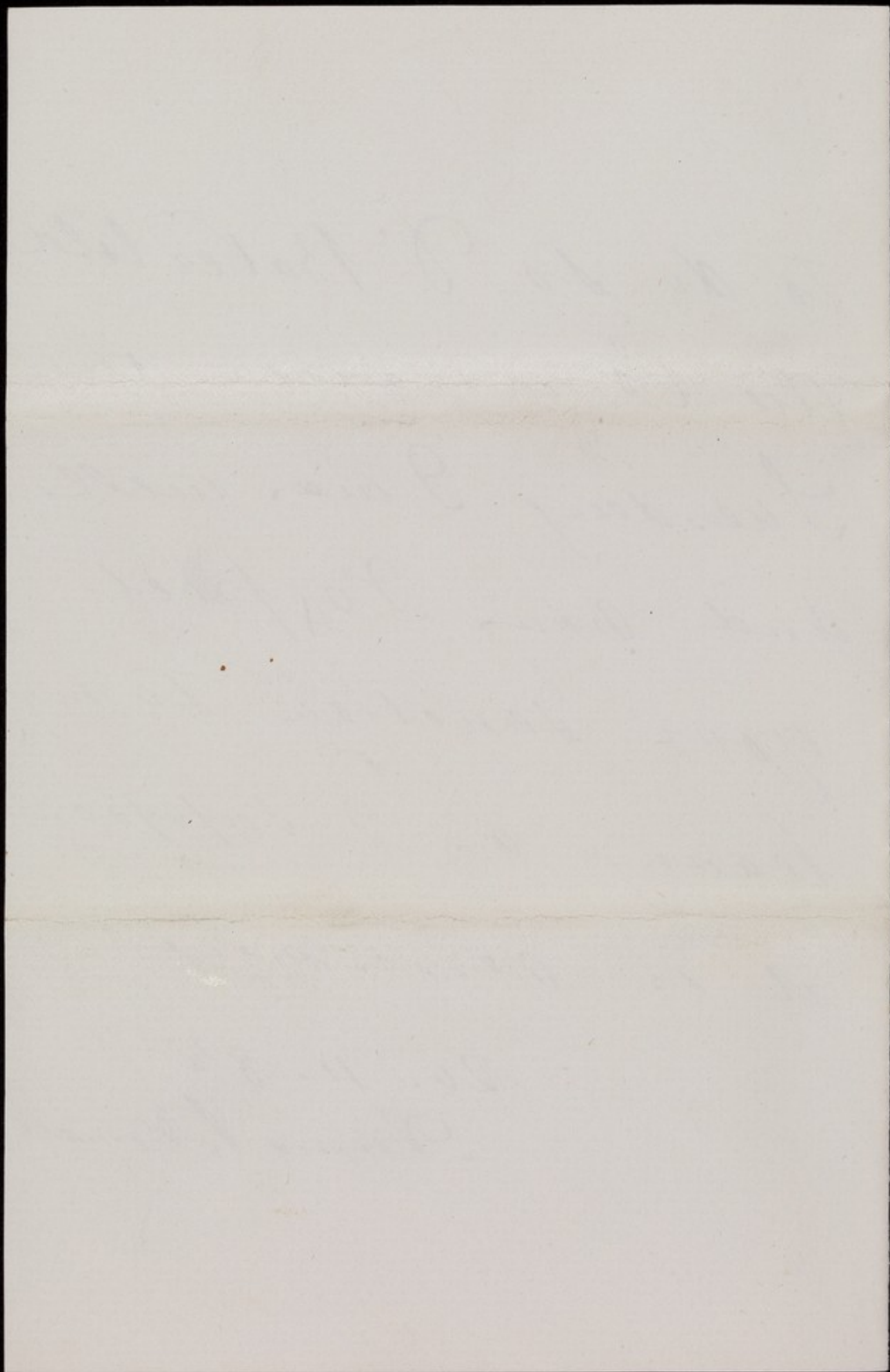
1847



to do so J<sup>r</sup> Baker told  
the Commissioner on  
Tuesday I was well  
and now I expect  
your sanction to my  
leaving as I suppose  
it is necessary

20. 11. 85

Annie Bennett





Y. A. M. D.  
14.12.18

My darling Service  
Yesterday I re-  
ceived a letter from J. P.  
in wh<sup>ch</sup> he quite ignores  
the fact of my not in-  
tending to live with him  
if he is doing so I think  
I will change my mind  
he is quite mistaken  
I am not <sup>changeable</sup> when he  
is convinced he is  
dwelling on the fact  
the childrens love and  
their need of all his  
care & keep his health  
and good spirits. I  
will please me but  
after my returning due

Dear enough to save a  
little trouble  
I naturally hate  
to see the children  
hate the place  
I have seen frozen over  
the ponds



carte de visite and writing  
so plainly what can be  
the cause of the blindness  
under which he lives, I told  
the Commissioners I preferred  
staying here to living with  
him. Of course I consider it  
a choice between two evils.  
I have never intended  
returning to him although  
had any serious consequences  
followed they being placed  
here there would have  
been no need of my ta-  
king the stand I have  
done, enjoying the health  
I do my place is not  
here, I am reading a  
Diary in which the wing  
feathers of a bird are



Said to represent the im-  
pulses of youth to submit  
the tail represents man-  
ner. Judgement now in  
this question I claim the  
virtues of being and tail  
if I am silent on the  
part it is as much as  
YB can expect of me  
and utterance. I am he  
may rely on my recti-  
tude. I am delighted  
that there is a prospect  
of Beatrice going to school  
next quarter it will be  
much the best for her  
she is remarkably in-  
telligent and will need  
school discipline she



Soon makes friend and  
I have no doubt will be  
very happy there There  
is a portrait in the Graphic  
this week very much  
like Theo I dare say  
he will be a little changed  
in appearance how <sup>many</sup>  
years has he been in New  
Zealand What work are  
you doing this winter I have  
finished my barn and am  
now doing Institution work  
the amount of crochets done  
here quite amuse me all  
the attendant bother you  
to do them some crochets  
edging when I first came  
I knit a quilt for Mr. T the  
head attendant in this gallery



Yours

5. 11. 8

My darling I hear from  
you all the time & I am  
glad to hear from you  
after Monday with you  
that you had not left  
Old England now dear  
because you will take  
no active steps towards  
my release from this  
immediate supervision &  
all expressions of cease  
do you claim the privilege  
of judging without ever  
having sought my con



patience as to the reasons for  
 the very serious aversion I  
 have to being compelled  
 to live with him can you  
 tell me why now that  
 he has written and fixed  
 the day for taking me  
 away he does not come  
 Dr. Baker thought he would  
 come on later Monday I  
 ask him for direct answers  
 to many questions he pre-  
 varicates so that here I am  
 a wonder to all perfectly  
 well in health with a per-  
 ently no one taking the  
 least interest in me see



The money he must have  
 squandered in coming from  
 Canada he had. I so sent  
 only a week before leaving  
 from Grace who was man-  
 aging and affairs. He changed  
 it into dollars and inserted  
 it carrying the whole \$500 in  
 his pockets after great coaxing  
 he added it to some I had  
 in the Bank. But in a  
 mad fit, went one morn-  
 ing to the Bank drew  
 all that was in bought  
 tickets for returning home  
 all the things we had  
 taken out and they were  
 valuable as you know.



into the hands of <sup>conspicuous</sup> strangers to dispose of <sup>it</sup> after  
 he had left, he would tell  
 me nothing and when I  
 remonstrated with him for  
 drawing all the money from  
 the Bank, he dared me to  
 question his right to do so,  
 he liked and then I cannot  
 understand if the doctor  
 ordered him to <sup>with me</sup> England  
 what about coming alone  
 with a wee baby and at a  
 moment's notice and then  
 how could common sense  
 allow him to do so when  
 I had all the expenses of  
 her journey with, finding the



9  
it will be fully for him  
I think of succeeding  
a few summer more after  
having parted with every  
thing with the intention  
of settling abroad indeed  
I would like very much  
to know how he stands  
in money matters he has  
a way of not looking  
into them, and before  
leaving England with my  
sister I received honestly  
when I found his family  
I perceived in health  
but the Regent's letter  
came for settling all accounts



My object in thus writing  
 is to remind you that since  
 my return you have only  
 heard his statement & I  
 have not the least idea  
 of what he could have  
 said about his precise  
 date of flight from Canada  
 but he must have been  
 very willing I should  
 at once be consigned to  
 the society of bad people  
 unfortunately my mother  
 has been of such  
 kind that since no  
 time during it has elapsed  
 that there was no  
 duration of a perfect  
 consciousness of all my



"Surroundings you will say  
perhaps upon reading the  
story we should have missed  
our sister and pleased him  
in an English there is one  
thing certain. I am deter-  
mined he shall never  
live with me in a closer  
connection than as a stran-  
ger or a brother he com-  
pete because I am naturally  
very affectionate to you  
knowing the terms of  
trust we enjoyed with  
our brother I could not  
not advance to him he  
used to say he would hate  
to have a delicate wife  
but surely it is criminal to



place a wife in an asylum  
because she is unequal  
to the duties expected of  
her of one thing I am  
sure I am stronger than  
them I have been during  
all my married life  
I wish him to go abroad  
again and if he is afraid  
of the climate of Canada to  
try Australia as I have no  
wish to place him in an  
Asylum I would much  
rather be proved him-  
self equal to managing  
the children, you darling  
I do not wish to depress you  
with what I have said  
because I take Christ  
teaching practically and  
consider I should rejoice



29. 12. 85 -  
I wish you could un-  
derstand it will be  
be impossible for me  
to live with you  
again in the  
is not in my heart  
putting by to give  
any one pain but  
to spend the trouble  
at least to give  
write to  
it



can scarcely add to  
your sorrows, as most  
certainly it will be  
more consoling to you  
to know I am not  
only quite well and  
capable of earning  
a salary, but also will  
try to do so cheerfully  
than to be thinking



to it was your duty  
to keep me a companion  
among of insane people,  
you have the children  
to love and take care  
of, and my whole  
arm will be their  
advantage when I  
have the opportunity  
to do anything for  
them, here I spend  
all my time doing

Institution work just  
because my early training  
makes industry a pleasure,  
I have never experienced better health  
in my life than I am  
doing at present and  
have done many months  
past, do not throw to  
aside and say time  
will change such an  
unexpected decision