

MY DEAR SISTER-After a stay of a month at this place you will think it high time for me to give some account of my family and myself, especially as my last letter to you did not decide the question of stopping here or proceeding onwards. I knew, however, that you would learn our resolve in this respect from other quarters, and I waited awhile till I could give you a clearer idea of the nature of our situation. I will now go back to the time of our arrival here. The low situation of the town, though we were prepared for it by Mr. Strickland's letters, rather disappointed us, and the next day, proving rainy, kept us indoors, and prevented our seeing Mr. Strickland, who was not yet returned into the town for the winter. My curiosity, however, drove me to take a survey of the town (at the expense of a cold), and the outward appearance gave me little hopes of finding a comfortable house at liberty. I also paid a visit to the castle, in which Pestalozzi has his Institute, and about which my curiosity has been a good deal raised by our Frankfurt doctor. He, on a tour through Switzerland, had been so much struck by the new method that, after staying in the castle a week to observe it, he returned home in the determination (if his wife was not averse to it—a trait which gained him the good opinion of mine) of sending his sons thither. He had given me a letter to Pestalozzi, who, however, was absent on a journey; but I went into some of the rooms, and was far from favourably impressed by what I saw,—a great want of discipline and regularity, every one seemed to be doing what they chose—something or nothing—and the footing they seemed to be on with the tutors, that of schoolfellows. It was, however, the lowest class, and many of them very little boys.

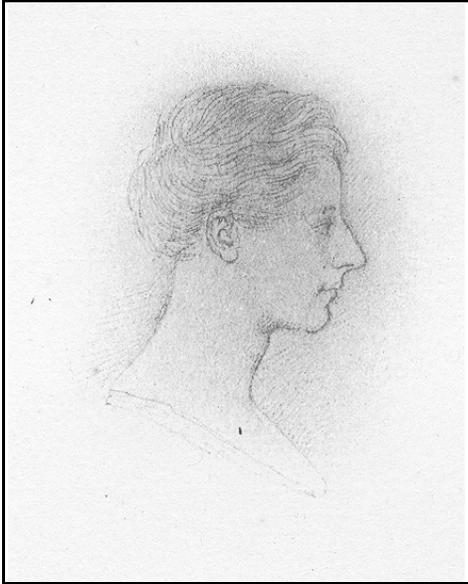
The result of all I observed there, and in the town, was to move on to Geneva as soon as I had called on Mr. Strickland, and inquired for letters which I thought might have been addressed to his care. When I saw him, however, I found reason to change my determination. We were so late in the season that there would have been great difficulty in finding at Geneva lodgings at all comfortable even at very exorbitant rates. On the other hand, being aware of my near approach from letters addressed to us to his care, he had kindly made inquiries, and immediately returned with me to town to inspect a lodging which he had found at liberty, and in which we actually established ourselves three days afterwards. We found the objection to the situation of the town more in appearance than reality, and that we could have the attendance of good masters at home on very reasonable terms. In fact, though the town is so little above the level of the lake, and an extent of low meadowing extends for some miles on the opposite side of the town, these circumstances so little affect the general dryness of the atmosphere, that the house into which Mr. Strickland was about to remove, and which had not been inhabited for two years, had not a single lock or key rusted.

We have the first floor in a house in a very good winter situation, being sheltered from the north wind, and our rooms looking to the south and into the country; but in a rather shabby street, and the entrance, like all the houses, very shabby. We ascend to our apartments by a winding stone staircase, rather more convenient than that by which one ascends to the top of the steeple at Kirkham, and yet not quite as good as the geometrical staircase at St. Paul's. The ground floor and cellar, all in a piece, are occupied by a half score of wine vats, little inferior to that at Heidelberg; the upper story by the owner's family. We are not very well furnished, but we have, however, pretty nearly all we could wish—four beds and four servants' beds, dining-room, and a small cabinet with a chimney, adjoining Skinner's room, and occupied by him. Our general sitting-room is the bed-chamber of Madame! We got supplied with a chambermaid and kitchen-girl the day we entered on our lodgings; the latter can hardly be called a cook, but she is good-natured, and willing to work and be taught. I have since bought a pair of good stout Swiss coach-horses, value £48, and got a coachman with an excellent character in every respect, who engages himself to do *tout ce qui se présente*, dirty or clean, for £10, coat, pantaloons, and boots, per annum. Thus I am become again housekeeper in full form, for I market, order dinner, inspect the larder, and study to use up the cold meat economically, without getting laughed at more than twice or thrice a week. The only thing in which I am found very extravagant is cream, of which we consume two quarts a day, and my wife talks of reducing our allowance; but Skinner and I have got into possession, and it will not be an easy matter to oust us.

Our female servant, whom we took with us from London, answers our expectations so little, and was so little calculated to manage for the children, that we came to a determination to send her back from Frankfurt, and we found ourselves relieved by her absence wonderfully. We engaged a manservant at Frankfurt to attend us as far as Yverdun, and we were as lucky in him as we had been otherwise with Miss Whitaker. He is now returned home, but it was with regret we parted with him, so useful and good-natured did we find him. But his wages were high, and we

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feared that George would be jealous, so for the peace of the family we let him go, and now he is gone we find we do as well without him as with him.



WILLIAM LANGTON, BORN APRIL 17, 1803, AT FAIRFIELD, BOLTON ABBEY, YORKSHIRE, DIED SEPTEMBER 29, 1881, AT INGATESTONE, ESSEX.

In the last two or three days we have been driving about the town making our calls, for the custom of the country is this :-When a stranger fixes himself anywhere for a time, and wishes to be admitted to the society of the place, he makes a round of calls to all in that class of society to which he wishes to attach himself-if without introduction stating on his cards his nation or rank, if he has any. Those that choose return his call, and he is then generally invited to their parties. We have gone through this preliminary, and a large portrait of an ancestor of our host, which is over our fireplace, is beset with a double row of cards which have arrived in return.

(18th Dec.) My letter has experienced an unexpected detention, and from a most distressing cause. Our dear William has again filled us with alarm and apprehension by an illness of a similar nature to those of which he has had this summer several slight attacks,-the last at Frankfurt. It was now attended with more serious symptoms, and it is only this morning that our medical friend (with whom we are very well satisfied) has pronounced him out of danger. For several days we had almost ceased to hope, if hope ever could cease, and though we now feel happy in being relieved from the prospect of an immediate loss, yet our expectations of seeing him arrive at man's estate are very much chastened. They have not ever been very sanguine, especially on the part of my wife. At present William's disorder has experienced what is considered a favourable crisis, and though yet very weak and ill, we are encouraged to look forward to a gradual, though perhaps

slow, recovery. We have found our new acquaintances exceedingly kind and attentive, and if we had been in any necessity of delegating our attentions, we should not have been in want of assistants ; but our acquaintance was too recent to make any assistance from strangers comfortable to my wife, and she and I have managed to attend to him, without much harassing either. Fortunately my wife has been in her best way ; she sits up beside him till three or four o'clock, at which time I rise, and she takes my place. This arrangement corresponds so well with our habits that, if necessary, I think we could continue it long without serious inconvenience. I trust, however, we shall not be put to the trial. In William's complaint, in addition to the catarrhal fever, the nerves and head were considerably affected, but most the breast, which was much loaded, and attended by a pain in the side. This pain, however, was not fixed, it moved its situation, and was sometimes suspended for a day. This circumstance, I believe, diminishes the danger of anything remaining behind to prevent his perfect recovery.

During his illness we have had more than one occasion to remark the different practice in England and on the Continent, which even we were struck with, and it excited much surprise, and even doubts of the efficacy of the art, to see that remedies which with you are in high esteem, either not known or disregarded, or perhaps reprobated, whilst what is here said to be of great efficacy is little known or attended to in England. Upon one occasion my wife was much agitated by the application of mustard plaisters to the feet, which she had never known applied but in the last extremity. Here it is an everyday practice, upon very trivial occasions, and the effects as described to us, and as we think we in some measure observed confirmed in William's case, have induced me to make the remark, for it seemed to me far from improbable, that our dear Cicely might derive advantage from it in those severe attacks with which she has often been harassed. These plaisters are often applied merely to remove a headache, in which, if proceeding from a determination of blood to the head, they seldom fail to succeed. They are suffered to continue on the soles of the feet for about half an hour after they begin to make themselves felt, or sometimes a couple of ounces of mustard powder is put into a hot foot-bath, in which the feet are suffered to remain till the skin is become red. The effects of these applications are so spoken of, that if perchance you have not already tried them, I hope, should the occasion unfortunately occur, that you will ; and happy indeed should I be if I could please myself with the thought that I had contributed ought to alleviate my dear Cicely's pains.

Your letter of the 2nd, which was received yesterday, must not expect to be noticed in- all its points-time and room forbid itbut it is all posted to book. It was a welcome sight, and came at a time when a friendly visit of the kind was a real solace I felt for you in your domestic difficulties, I assure you, but more for your invalids, who I hope are long ere this (including Peggy) restored to health again. I must now postpone much of what I had intended to write

about, to another opportunity, and I hope I may soon have in William's continued amendment a call for another despatch. Your suggestion about a winter in Italy would undoubtedly have been anticipated, had not the season been already so far advanced when we arrived here, as to make it unadvisable to pass the Alps with a delicate traveller.

At present adieu, my dear sister. Your Christmas parties will be on foot when you receive this, and some friends amongst you who are not often there. To all our kind regards, more particularly to the closer circle of our nearer relatives, to whom if possible I feel my attachment increase in proportion as I am further removed from them. If my Aunt Hankinson is still with Mrs. Shepherd, make my regards particularly to them both. I am highly pleased to hear so good an account of them. I fear Cornelius will feel the loss of Zachary very much, especially when you too are gone upon your southern tour. I suppose he occasionally gives me a pinch for my plans as well as yourself. You are not only welcome, but I wish you to continue in the practice, it will keep me in your remembrance, and you will both rejoice more at my return, which I trust will take place sooner or later.

I had thought to have shut up my letter, but my wife tells me that my way of speaking of our quarters will give you a false idea of them, and that my joke won't be understood. As our apartment will be William's sole residence for many weeks to come, perhaps for the whole winter, I wish you to understand that it is a very comfortable room, larger than your drawing-room, and respectably though not smartly furnished. It has a chimney as well as a stove, and from its sheltered situation and south aspect, its double doors and double windows, we expect to be able to keep it at a proper temperature without the assistance of the stove, which is very fortunate, as neither my wife nor William can do with the atmosphere of stoved rooms. As for our well-staircase, it is contained in a tower, which joins the house, and as these towers are considered a sort of badge of nobility, or good extraction, our host preferred a bad entrance into his house rather than part with this feather in his cap. He was a fool for not pulling it down when he built his house, but it has at least this advantage, it affords a good escape in case of fire.

William has passed another night, since I resumed my letter, undisturbed by fever or cough. I endeavour to make the most of our present relief from anxiety and alarm, and admit, as little as possible, thoughts about the possible consequences, though after such an attack these must hang over us for some time to come.

If we continue going on well I will in a week or ten days write again, and take that opportunity of giving you some little account of the *dramatis personæ*, with whom we are likely to act a few scenes this winter. I shall also have another subject which has very much interested me, and would you, if I could give you a good account of it-I mean Pestalozzi's Institute, which I consider an experiment as interesting to the human race in general, as any that has occupied the thoughts of sages and philosophers for some centuries back. But it is beyond my power to do it justice. - Again adieu, my dear sister and brother and all my dear friends, your affectionate,

THO. LANGTON.

Skinner and the other children are well.