

for by Miss
Mary Augusta Walker
to her mother
written while she
was at
Mme Mouchette's
painting.
12 Sept 1885

world. The babies seemed
to be thriving a little better
lately. She looks worse the longer
is not enough food. I think she has
had the grippe & has been
very bad. She has been
as well as could be expected.
They have had a good
many happy returns
of the day. I hope Isai is looking
after thee properly. Now I am told
with thee, you are quite a
forlorn little company only
thee & Sah & Isai. I expect you
don't know hardly how to get on
with the most important men.
It is nearly half 10 o'clock & I am
as yet with very small loss or good company.

vers of the family away. Never
mind, you will soon have James
with you again, & I will send
you some good sound advice for
you to follow while I am still
obliged to be absent from you.

James seems to be very contented
here in Melbourn, the only thing
about him that grieves me is
that I think he keeps up his
some practice of going to bed late.
He looks better than when he came
over. He has been doing the grand
to day lunching out at Soorate
at Mrs. Joe Clark's. He is going up
to Barnesdale on the Lippisland
line with Mr. Bastow. & on Friday
he wants me to go with him up
to Sandhurst & see Issie Carns.
We should go up on Friday afternoon
& come back on Saturday night

so I shouldn't miss much of my work.

I left Halshead on Monday however especially after dusty bus as I thought Alice would be ~~there~~ home & its crowded suburbs by that time & as Carie is ~~there~~ It is quite like the country out there too there was not room for both - big fields on either side, dotted of us & I had to turn out. However over with pine trees, & a very nice Alice hasn't arrived. Still it house & garden. It was pleasant suits my work better staying here with Florrie, than out there. It is such an out of the way place. I had to go by train to Balaclava which took twenty minutes & then I had between 15 & 20 minutes walk from the station. Lucas obliged Mrs Crosby's death she seems to have to leave ^{my mother's} earlier of an even- ing or else Lucas in the dark, & I got there later of a morning. I couldn't get to bed there early when ever I felt inclined as I can here & often I had to get up earlier or else I lost my bath. Then there was a

good deal more expense while I was there. It is a very nice place to stay too having Carie as a companion. She complained she didn't see much of me. Mrs Hales hasn't been very well lately she has so much pain about her chest & back. The dear old lady has aged very much I think since Mrs Crosby's death she seems to have shrunk away to nothing. She keeps about wonderfully however. When I said good bye to her on Monday morning she sent her love to all at home & particularly to thee. She said she didn't suppose now that you two would meet again in this