

Feb. 16, 1835

Birmingham Feby. 16th 1835

My dear Aunt,

I have been writing so many little epistles to your young ones, that I fear my letters to yourself, will prove rather brief, but as you are still a letter in my debt, my conscience does not so severely upbraid me as it otherwise would do- You will smile at my important present to yourself and I must explain my reasons for inscribing your name in the book- I thought by that means to make it more family property, and ensure its general perusal- I wish I knew exactly the ages of ~~your~~ my little cousins, as I could then better judge what books were suitable for them- But as those I have now selected are all on instructive subjects, and very recently published I hope they will be receptable- A habit of observing and examining into the beauties and wonders of nature is a blessed one for a child to possess, it gives them a custom of thinking for themselves, and finds unceasing and ever profitable employment for their young minds- I carefully abstained from sending the little colonists any tale books, or books which would make them long for more extensive knowledge of things out of their present reach- I have been out today to find a book on shells written in a familiar style, but could not meet one to my mind - I may perhaps be more fortunate another time, and hope my little presents may meanwhile amuse my young naturalists whose gifts of birds and shells were extremely pleasing to me, and are very often exhibited- indeed they form a part of my furniture- I wish that circumstances did not preclude the possibility of my seeing you, and all my dear friends in Van Diemen's

Land- for it would give me the truest pleasure- Mamma has almost entirely given up writing, therefore you must not take it unkind you do not hear from her- I am Secretary both for the Foreign and Home Departments, and, unlike Government officers, do not find my situation a sinecure- and indeed I hold a really official appointment, having all the work to do of the Corn Inspector for Birm, the nominal possession of which situation my Uncle Henry obtained after Papa's death for our enrolment, and as it is all indoor work, calculations averages and writing- giving a weekly account to the London offices of the quantity, kind and price of all English grain and drawing the several averages arithmetically, I accomplish my duties with the utmost propriety, having always been accustomed to assist greatly- of my avocations it may truly be said "their name is Legion, for they are many"- and I assure you sewing is included- of all kinds-my time is truly valuable, and I cannot afford to have it idled away by calling and visiting- I dislike what is generally termed "Society"- unless it is intellectual and profitable, I like my own so well that unless I can find better I prefer home- my painting, music, writing, study work and business, leave me little excuse for being elegantly idle- I hope you will read my poems and like them, they are only just coming out here, and have only been seen by comparatively a few persons, but the opinion entertained of them is highly flattering to their young authoress- I shall also send you a separate specimen of my etching, in a proof plate of my Uncle to his House, in Gloucestershire, which is in reality much prettier than my engraving, but they are greatly pleased with my attempt-I must refer you to my other letters for news of English friends, for indeed I have not a moment to spare more- I hope we shall soon hear from you, and that my packages have all arrived safely- Mamma sends her kind love and accept

the same from

Your sincerely affectionate

Louisa Anne Twamly

Addressed to:-

Mrs. Meredith,

Belmont.