

Birmingham Feb. 18th 1835-

My dear Aunt,

I have been waiting to
send you a little epistle to your young ones,
that I fear my letter 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 in-
scribing your name in the book - I thought
by that means to make it more family pro-
perty, and ensure its general perusal -
I wish I knew exactly the eyes of ~~you~~

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 acceptable - A habit of
observing and examining into the beauties and
borders 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~~ or books which
would make them long for more extensive know-
ledge of things out of their present reach - I
have been out to-day to find a book on shells
written in a familiar style, but could not meet
one to my mind - I may perhaps be more for-
tunate another time, and hope my little presents
may be acceptable to 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 the Sandwich Land - for it would
give ^{me} the truest pleasure - Annama has
almost entirely given up writing, ~~so~~ 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
so tiresome - And indeed I hold a really
official appointment, having all the work to do
of the Corn Inspector for Spain the nominal pos-
session of which situation my uncle Henry obtained
after Pepin's death for our emolument, and as
it is all in-door work, calculations, averages, &
writing, - giving a weekly account to the London Office
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 vocations it may truly be said. "This
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" - un-
less 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 hence
only been seen by comparatively a few persons,
but the opinion entertained of them is highly
flattering to their young authors - I shall
also send you a separate specimen of my
etching, in a proof-plate of my Niece to his
house, in Gloucester-street, 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 in-
-deed 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 Stanley —