

the maid
sent down to
Pell's to go in a
harness to
two crows
I have per-
sued
for trustee
Woodhouse
Nov. 1880

My dear old James
I have been
sitting here gazing at the
blank sheet & considering
which of my family I should
honour by addressing. I consid-
ered the subject aloud, so
Frank who was leaning over
me in a very affectionate
manner, much to the detri-
ment of my writing, cried
"oh write to 'Daisy', dear little
Daisy". I certainly owe the child
a letter but your last letter

& your beloved self both plead
the superiority of age. These two
boys - Frank & George are tor-
menting me in a boisterous
ly affectionate mood, my
plumage, as you would say,
is very much ruffled by
their tricks. I reduced George,
who is the most restless spirit
to order by threatening that
I would ^{put} him down in black
& white in my letter. The
mysterious threat has great
power always; they don't like
the idea of a bad impression
going to unknown people.
Tho' you certainly are not un-
known, they consider my fam-
ily quite amongst their ac-
quaintances. You have no idea
how observant these boys are

I had not till I had been
here some months which
it took for them to get over
their shyness. Then I found
that nothing said or done es-
capes them. & after a certain
time everything is reproduced
for the general edification.

Thus, one morning I went down to
breakfast when the boys Den-
ton Fletcher & Will, were home
for a few days, & there was
an absurd little tableau
before me — Will sitting in
a chair & Alfred standing over
him, one finger supporting
his chin while he prepared to kiss
him. This I found was Miss
Walther's brother saying good
morning" and it appeared
that the young monkeys who

had seemed to shy to look at
one, had been much amused
at your mode of saluting me
that memorable morning you
were here, and were now giving
the little scene for the two boys'
benefit.

What do you say old boy
to us two, going off hand in
hand, (to speak figuratively)
to see the wonders of the Ex-
hibition? The idea I must
allow has charms. I had
a letter from Sarah yesterday
& from what she ^{seems to say} it will
make very little difference
to any body when I again
show my face in Babart's way
I have shown myself fair
to the Gatenbys & told Mrs.
& that I thought I would

stay another six months.
She was pleased to say that
they would be all very sorry
to lose me, so I have no
doubt if I shall grow gay
in the service — take to a
spectacles & caps, you know
in times. It struck me and
a little touch, characteristic
of the family that they
began considering the inter-
ests of the stranger before
their own people's. One thing
about this Melbourne ~~thing~~
is the funds, how much
will it cost? & it will
make it so much more
expensive going home
at the end. I wrote to
Carrie Winour some
few weeks ago I mention

ed that I was considering
the subject of going over, but
I can't go to them without
Carrie writes again to ask
me, so my going or not
I think depends on that.
Mrs. Latent is a great ad-
vocate for my going over,
she is always much a-
mused & astonished at
my disinclination to stir
from where I am. It is
knowing delightfully near ^{being}
this at the same time it
seems a tremendous long
way off, so I can't make
up my mind at once
you see exactly what I am
going to do. I do hate being
driven into a corner like
this & forced to decide.

seven things both of which
I would like to do. I think
I would be quite with
what ever was decided for
me so great would be the
relief.

I have just roused up
from dinner to finish
this, & feel a little uncom-
fortable - perhaps the effects
of gooseberry pie & such
thick cream.

I must tell you some
little amusing stories we
having at home. Louis
the little dark one you
remember ^{and seven nearly} is an intense
admirer of John Gilpin
as he is has been introduced
to him by the pictures in
that book of yours. Every

night nearly I have to read
it to him, & it is good to see
his appreciation of the ^{humour of} piece.
He has taken to quoting it &
Mrs Gately was telling me he
had been announcing this morn-
ing that he had "a thrifty
mind". And then I related
how he had thrown his arms
round her yesterday exclaim-
ing "I do admire of woman-kind
but one, & you are she, my
dearest dear". Mr Gately
considered it might be taken
as a "proposal" & I thought
a very neatly put one. He
had evidently been consid-
ering the subject before for he
asked beforehand if "Miss
Walker was a woman-kind".
They're waiting for the

the mail
sent down to Brown
Jell's to go in a
parcel of two crows
I have pro-
posed for trustee
Woodhouse
Nov. 14th 1850

My dear old James

I have been
sitting here gazing at the
old...