

Holygate tower 25.64

My dear James

I should have answered they last very acceptable letter much sooner, had I been able to do so, but for the last few weeks, I have been quite out of order, & tho' I trust I am somewhat improved, my shaking hand makes it very difficult to write. I was not well when my Sister & Sarah Jane came to us three months ago, the former suffering from polypus in the nose, for which she had to have two operations, the last was one of extreme suffering, so that I broke down the next day, & since

that time have been much
prostrated by the state of the
liver & stomach, but I hope
that I am gaining strength
& may be able before long to
get out again, our garden
having been mostly the extent
of my rambling. My sister
is still here, tho' the operations
are considered to have been very
successful, there is still much
internal gathering, it is very
pleasant to see her together in
this time of weakness, & we
have a most kind attentive
nurse in our niece Sarah Jane,
I expect they will remain
here some weeks if not months
longer. Now that Thomas is
settled at Middlesbrough, Mary
seems to have less inducement

for being at Darlington tho' they
still have their house there.
Thomas likes his present employ-
ment greatly, he is an ardent ship
builder, & at present the demand
is so great for iron plated vessels
that as soon as one is launched
another is begun. his address is
South Field Millers, Middlesbrough,
his wife is an agreeable person,
but not being at friends, makes
us seem to have little in
common with her - My Brother
has just gone to the Committee
at the Flouider's Institute, he
is pretty well, but like many
of us shows that age, is bringing
down the strength, he is however
very active still. I expect he
will go to Hull on ^{the} day to
attend the funeral of Mabel Hips-
ley who had attained the
age of ninety four.

How wouldst indeed see very many
changes here if thou couldst look
into our old city. At the school
a great change, thy John Ford is
state superintendent, & Thrope
had married Mrs. Walton,
Silvanus Thompson, John Firth
Fryer, who has taken his degree
of B. A. at the London University
with Miss Theodore Neale, a
cousin of J. Thrope's, & a youth for three
very pious - My nephew J. B.
Brookfield was at the top of the
school, I think for a year & a half
so that it was thought best to
remove him to Tottenham where
he is getting on well. Theodore
& Albeck are at Westham, they
are nice lads, and quite enjoy
having them to visit us.

I hope by this time thou
hast got Thomas Allen's letter
he has directed to Melbourne's

Of course it came back, but
I understood from his wife
that he had sent it, I hope
rightly directed - Then as to
William Robinson, he married
Mary Ann Breary, & they are
the Superintendants of Crofton
School, they have several children
Sile Adam Smith has a flourish-
ing school at Weston super Mare,
he is married, but has no fam-
ily - John Watson is one of the
head masters at Cheworth
being married he does not live
in the house, but very near
he has one little girl -

My Nephew James is rather
latter this side of from Bridgewater,
his wife & 6 children are at
their Grandfather Robson at
present, greatly enjoying themselves

For the last two weeks we
have had beautiful Spring
weather, some days more like
midsummer, the gardens look
very beautiful, the helleboms
coming out, with the Spring flowers
My Grand Reminds me that it
is time, I should give over,
& therefore will conclude with
my dear love in which my Sister
who is the only one in all present
wishes believe me they are
affectionate Friends
Eliza Blackhouse
Dear love to my Mother.

I did not tell J^r that I
was going to write. He was
saying the other day that the
English market was quite
overstocked with Free Trade