

I trust  
dear Howard  
wishes news here  
with happy regards  
With much love to all  
Every one affectionately  
yours  
Ellie Kemp

Ellie Kemp  
Ivy Lodge  
Tring  
5-10-85

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My dearest Auntie,

Many thanks for your charming letter, which reached me, in the north of Scotland. George's photo, I think perfect! It had his own bright expression, just the one I love. — Rankine also sent me a beautiful one of himself, some time ago; I feel quite rich! — I did so enjoy your graphic description of the life at merris. So vividly indeed, did you conjure up the "bonfire" scene, that I looked up from the letter, feeling rather bewildered as to my whereabouts. The bright sitting room, a large

with sunshine, Howard; didn't seem to fit in with the weird light of the fjord: & the sound of the "singing" had suddenly ceased. —

We had a delightful holiday this autumn too. We went to Dornoch, about 50 miles further north than Kild's place; & on the coast. It had a magnificent sandy beach, bordered by beautiful links; & the water is, of course, like the purest crystal. —

you would never have been amused with baby the first day we went to bathe. I expected he would want a good deal of coaxing, as he had never been in the sea in his life: but the moment he was undressed, he took to his small heels, & made straight for the water, tho' there was a

pretty large breaker at the end.  
It was really quite comical;  
he looked such a tiny scrap  
of humanity against that vast  
expanse of sea. He speaks beauti-  
fully now; often upsets my  
gravity in spite of my efforts to  
be serious. The other day he was  
playing with a doll, (your doll  
by the way, of Burnside's memory)  
which he let fall, & to save him-  
self getting down from his chair  
said to me, "pick up dolly  
immediately!" I said to him,  
is that the way to ask? then  
he looked up & said in a most  
persuasive tone, "please mamma  
pick it up, like a sweet wee  
obedient pet".— And one day when  
we were in the country, he had  
been very well sobriqueted;  
so I took his hands in mine,

I said quite solemnly, "baby,  
do you think it would be  
nice, if mamma had to whip  
you"? but he looked me straight  
in the face, in as grave a  
tone as my own, calmly said  
"I think it would be better, if  
baby was to whip mamma,  
far better"! — I had enough  
to do, I can assure you, to  
remain solemn; hearing a little  
monkey not 2½ years old, coolly  
arguing the point on equal  
grounds. — yes, we did carry  
out our intention of going  
to Paris, but it was a very  
hurried visit, and Will only  
took ten days; part of which  
was spent in London. I left  
a few days before, & remained  
about a week after, with friends.

near London; but the days  
in Paris, were one constant  
rush from morning to night.  
We certainly managed to crowd  
a tremendous amount of  
sight-seeing into the short space  
at our disposal; but as for  
the thoroughness which ought  
to be devoted to the picture-  
galleries &c. the less said  
about it, the better! It was  
almost enough to rouse the  
indignant shades of the old  
masters, to see the curdery  
fancies we bestowed on their  
world-famous masterpieces.  
We were fortunate in having  
superb weather, & really en-  
joyed the trip greatly.  
We have all got back to town  
again now, except Fines, who

has spent the summer in Dun-  
bar, & thinks of remaining there  
till the end of this month. I  
don't know what she intends  
doing after that, but I suppose  
she will be forming some plan  
for settling down in permanent  
quarters. Miley is staying with  
Maggie till her affairs are got  
into working order. The house  
was sold last month, & only  
realized £900: most of the  
furniture had been sold too,  
but I have not heard what  
it brought. The interest of the  
two, & some other small sums,  
will form Miley's yearly income,  
which can't possibly be large: & I  
don't know what course she  
means to follow. But I always  
amongst us, we shall be able to

availing some plan she will  
like. Talking about plans, we  
are thinking of putting up a  
verandah in front of the house.  
The last few days I have been  
wishing I had your clever head  
to work out a suitable design.  
We are also having a slight  
alteration made indoors. The  
room which will be appropriated as  
his "den", is being changed into a  
nice little parlour, the bookshelves  
have been put up in the room  
behind the dining room. It will be  
almost equivalent to an extra room  
as the latter, was made no practical  
use of, the former, never looked  
decent. It is now being pretty papered  
spainted, the tiled hearth put in;  
with the old drawing room fur-  
niture covered with Gilt, the little  
American Organ which I expect to get

will, I think look very well.  
Oh, I mustn't forget to tell you,  
Will, he'd a note shortly after  
our return from the Country  
informing him, that the Queen  
had been graciously pleased  
to approve of his appointment  
as a Justice of the Peace for the  
County of Sutherland, on the  
recommendation of the Lord  
Lieutenant (Duke of Sutherland).  
Another thing I mustn't forget,  
is to thank you & Anne, for  
his work on Egypt & Syria. I  
have not read very widely through  
it yet, but find it very interesting.  
Will is delighted with it, & has  
given a number of copies to  
friends. — I do hope you are not  
going to let Anne come over  
alone Auntie dear. Are you  
not coming to be presented at Court?