



Little Meets
July 24th
1885

Dearest Kaupine,
I have felt so pleased with the thought of your seeing Bernard & hearing so much news of us all that I have felt writing to be quite an unnecessary addition - The few photographs we sent & all the chit-chat we'd I thought to be so much more satisfactory - how we have heard with great regret that you have not met - I left London on July 1st - & I have since had a letter from Colague he has been hurrying about so much that I have only had very sketchy accounts of his doings - I hope he will come back refreshed by all the new & old sights of foreign lands - but I fear he is alarming himself to be over come by the hurry that is the evil genius of the traveller - A little seen & enjoyed at greater leisure seems to me so much more one's own -
Here we jog on much as usual - but there is very quiet few people at the hotels & many cottages unoccupied - I hope to

I find it pleasanter than, but I fancy Eva finds it uncongenial
 plain, especially as Florence's mind
 is not set upon frivolity at pres-
 ent - but she takes her pleasure
 out in various pieces of dainty
 needle work. wh she is preparing
 for a little N. mas has on wh
 her expectations are set. she
 is uncommonly well in health
 & looks prettier than ever, every
 one remarks how blooming she
 is - Indeed nothing cd have hap-
 pened better for her, than this
 long summer by the sea, & meanwhile
 William is having a good airing
 in the West & despites mosquitoes
 & lack of much having privilege
 he reports he is well & fat - then
 of course while these young people
 are as they are, their parents too
 growing stouter, so that the ex-
 penses of the coming winter will
 not over come them.

Another, I regret to say has
 not been enjoying the old ce far
 niente, in that at least you have
 not resembled her, for you are
 capable of doing nothing & letting
 the world drift past you, & in
 deed I believe myself to be gifted
 with the same possibility though
 at present I am in the situation
 of Dickens' cab horse, the staff
 part me the coach pushed me on
 & have to go - still I resist the
 addition of little etc wh we make
 my dear work a toil, & spoil my
 peace of mind - of course another

improves everything whenever she sees of his & those
Abraham not saying they would but that she is too great
able also not while she thinks her husband's and her
help. Just cure now, she can only try to shorten the
they has her as much as possible. I suppose from the
the brief hours for writing & therefore from the
how & however like to keep it shorter & from the
As far as my book they have been written
well in short job which I must keep away
had to have them the first 15-20 last away
the do right matter from 9 to 10 of the week stay
heron. I write me from 9 to 10 of the week stay
up to the work & let the other days with last part
and, if I can they have on it - I will write with the
should you do much for the most - I will write
you that here I do not know what to do
Garnett has much interest in going off by the
Rankine matters the way for - I have known
sales of a parcel after with me a most capital
book. Well - I take time also a letter book. The
book. I returned it. Some first - I will write
of 15 min. I returned it. Some first - I will write
A charming book of old Scandinavian things
with. I seem to think all the party always going
fairly well that have been written.

9 Being a rainy night I have
twice had to go & see to pulling
mussels under leaky spots we
had no such trouble last year
but B being away the "perversity
of inanimate things" has asserted
itself in not a few directions

Baby Conrad is a wonder he
just 8 months & has been crawling
since he was 7, & gets on his feet
every good opportunity i.e. when
ever he can get - his tub however
steadily rested on a box, or stool
etc - the other day he stood up
beside the tub wh. Ruth had
just got out of, leaned over to
get the sponge when in the moment
made first clothes & all & what I
really admired about him was
that he made so little to do about
the circumstance - Ruth calls
him "Con-rog", when she does not give
him "Bozai" Ruth is the same little
jockey I she seems to have a faculty
for locks & catches & such - she can
open the gate here wh. Clara cannot
& unlocks a little padlock I have
quickly - A short time ago she got
Annie's watch opened the hunting
case, took off the glass & saw the
marks without entering anything
but the top of her hand - I can't
do it myself - She has a hard
time of it little more so often
maddling with unhelpful things
Adelaide Campbell is coming
down tomorrow for a few days at
Birkenhead - then I believe Miss
Brooks the amusing little artist

scrap of 2½ years - 1885 ^{Ruth as chief} She tumbles
head over heels & while I hold my
breath to hear how much is broken
she rights herself & says - "I nearly
tumbled" she lights the waste basket
& when I turn I see it a pyramid
of flame & rush with it to the
nearest water, & returning very
severely - "You naughty little girl to
light a match & burn mother's
basket" she looks wide eyed at
me & answers "Died I" with a
tone I wish I could repeat in writing
she will sew as high as the
sewing will go - I took a cliff in the
sea there, with equanimity - she
is so lovable poor little dot, but
so irrefragable - Conrad is fair
& pleasant & also very active
begins to creep - I reach & strive to
obtain mastery of the environment

Such a scrappy letter, I am
just about to begin George Eliot's
essays - she was a wonderful woman
& wonderfully beset with the weak-
nesses of her sex, while very masterly
in mind - Do you know of her
poems are in cheap form I wd
much like a copy - If you get an
opportunity read "The Legend of Jubal"
& "The Minor Prophet" - If I had
clear hours a day I might keep up
with the family writing, but
scraps are really all I can offer
well meant affectionate, & as much
to the point - as I can - but still
I am well aware "scraps" only -

Still please receive with all
love — I am now reading from
Benyon, with a feeling of disap-
pointment, it is not tall I have
hoped but very improve — then
I have Charlotte Bronte and little
story to go over. Perhaps I may
have a letter from one of the young
ones to inclose tomorrow.

By the way — to encourage or
amuse your profuse imagination
relying the other day in answers to
questions as to her relations

Where's Father? — "You in England"

Where's Aunt Eve? — "You Orents"

Where's Uncle Gary? — "You a too too"

Where's Uncle Rankin? — long pause
then — What's Uncle Rankin?

I laugh every time I remember it
you will suddenly have to re-
produce yourself

Vald uale! —

Very affectionately

Anna