

Outside the Box

Transcript

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Document description:	From Catherine Slack, Cottage Henlow (near Biggleswade) & Weymouth St., to her nephew, Thomas Wathen Waller	Date (if known):	12 th & 20 th December 1833
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The Cottage Henlow
near Biggleswade
Beds
Dec^r 12th 1833

Weymouth Street
Dec^r 20th 1833

My dearest Wathen

When I received your nice welcome letter and I was and had been for some time meditating sending you another with I am truly thankful to say a progressive account of my continued comfort which as they give you amusement and pleasure I shall now do with still greater gratification. I still much enjoy my Cottage and have been very busy improving my garden and having taken the Orchard into my own hands have made a walk round it on the side of which I have put a great many violets and primroses and round the said walk Beauty and myself generally take a walk every morning before breakfast which we have only left off for a day or two now it is December. I do not know if Beauty has been introduced to you

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she is a delicately beautiful young Lady perfectly black and as soft as velvet, of the canine species something of the Italian Grey hound and Terrier very lovely and very gentle and so excessively fond of me I never had the least idea any dog could

show so much affection; she is my companion in walks, at meals, and in the Drawing room and if I were inclined to be dull, which I am happy to say I never am; would not let me. Indeed the quiet of this little Village is quite delightful and I am so fond of my home I dread nothing so much as the thoughts of leaving it. I have frequently been at work in my garden nearly the whole day, pulling up and changing places of flowers and shrubs, it is new work to me, and you will laugh when I tell you that a flower I was told was very curious I put in with the roots upwards; I was by myself but upon looking at it I thought I was wrong, and would turn it, and so I did much I should think for its future benefit. I have a great object of interest in a little deaf and dumb boy who had been wholly neglected and though he is little is 15. When I first saw him he had the most forbidding countenance I ever saw and was an extraordinary figure being dressed in a girls frock. The first way I won his heart was by giving Cakes and wallnuts and then by making a man of him in a smock frock. God has most

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blessed and crowned with success my endeavours for him, to my surprise he knows nearly all the words in a box of pictures, with words at the back I have given him, and can read the same words on a card. As he had no kind of occupation I have tried to give him as many as I could, and often have him to garden with me of which he is very fond and have taught him to nit [sic] which he learnt very quickly; poor little fellow he is so fond of me he will do any thing for me; I cannot get at any knowledge he has of God, but always have him in on Saturday at Prayers in the Infant School, and there equally powerless in myself for those that can hear and for him who cannot though not always equally sensible of it, have prayed for the blessed influences of the Holy Spirit without whom I can do nothing but who can do all that is needful without me and trust that knowledge has been imparted to him; he used to be very violent, but I have never seen any signs of it I rather think the boys used to tease him for they are generally bad specimens of human nature. I am rather surprised that among those of your own age dear, you should have found a black opinion of it, for that is generally produced by a longer acquaintance with it. I know you do not doubt the truth of St Pauls assertion and feel that in ourselves we have no good thing; but we must never

stop loving but go on to, "I can do all things through Christ

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that strengtheneth me for this is the high
privilege of the Christian to have a life of faith
in the love of God who hath loved him and given
himself for him. Aunt and Uncle White are
just come to Town and I am now here in
Weymouth Street so that we are all happy together.
Arthur has got an appointment for India

and is most happy in the idea of going out in February
so I shall have another absent Nephew to be anxious for
but I can at all times commit them into the hands
of God. I am delighted to hear that dear G G has a little
boy I heard lately from Anna and from your Father
all well. All the Families are well and all join in
love to you with ever your affec[tiona]^{te} Friend and Aunt
Charlotte Slack

[address]

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