

Outside the Box

Transcript

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Balaclava 7 August

55 [in another hand?]

My dear Madam

I have often wished to write to you but always deferred doing so until I had really seen Lieutenant Waller. When first I arrived here I went to Camp to inquire for him and from time to time have always heard of him; when wounded I at once ascertained it was only a slight flesh wound of no danger –

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I wrote to him and although I sent the letter by Lord Raglan's Orderly I heard from Lieutenant Waller that it had never reached him! Then Mrs Bracebridge wrote to say you were uneasy about him I sent to Camp by Telegraph and the same day I wrote to Scutari and forwarded the dispatch by Telegraph to Brussels which I trust reached you safely as Lord Ward himself took it to Headquarters, it was "Never

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was better in my life." I was

therefore surprised & grieved
the other day to hear that your
beloved son had come down
[.....] here, and was on board
the "Imperator" going to Scutari.
I at once went to him and found
him well enough to be up and
walking on deck but looking
rather delicate and still suffering
from, to me now, our well known
fever, but not in a state to cause
any uneasiness and looking
forward to a speedy return to duty

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I wrote to Miss Nightingale telling
her Lieutenant Waller was going to
Scutari on sick leave and have
a few moments since received the
enclosed which I forward to you to
show you he will be taken care of
while near her and now dear
Madam I come to the most
important part of these few lines
which I know you and Sir Thomas
Waller will not be displeased at my
taking the liberty of addressing to you,
it is that were Lieutenant Waller
my child, from my experience of this
climate and my near acquaintance

[page 5, cross-hatching at the top of page 1]

with all that must be
endured by our army
in the probable prolonged
sejour here, I would scarcely
consent to his returning to his
Duty! at all events not until
he had had prolonged
leave to enable him to
visit home! I know
from him that he had
last winter suffered
much more in Camp
than he ever owned

and I know that when

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young men return here too soon, they often have relapses which are a sad test to an already weakened constitution! Forgive me dear Madam for writing as I do, the many and very great kindnesses I received at the hands of Sir Thomas Waller and yourself make me feel that I may tell you what I really think & feel in the regard to your deservedly beloved child! I sincerely hope Sir Thomas and the Misses Waller with your second son are quite well, I never can

[page 7, cross-hatching at the top of page 4]

cease to remember
with the deepest
gratitude all
the kindness
I received from
you! My endea-
vouring to do my
Duty here is the
only way I can
thank you!
He who sees all
things knows
how much in
heart I am your
deeply indebted
& grateful MA Wear

[page 8, cross-hatching on bottom three-quarters of page 4]

I have not time to read my
letter so forgive if I have said
too much, I have a most
arduous life here and am
surrounded by Sickness & Sorrows
I was in the Wards at past midnight
& again at ½ past 5 this morning
all our Medical Men except D^{rs}

[page 8, cross-hatching on bottom half of page 1]

Hall & Hadley have been
ill, we have neither D^{rs}
nor Orderlys [sic] enough to do
the hard duty of this Hospital
& we have fearful cases of
Cholera! God has in his great
Mercy preserved me and
enabled me to ~~wørk~~ work
hard & devoutly so I pray to
be able to continue.