

Outside the Box

Transcript

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Witton House
Blofield. Norwich
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1833

My own beloved Brother, A thousand thanks for your long and Affec^{[tional]te} letter of the 25th of August. I do hope now, by giving up the franking system, I shall get your dear letters safe. I have seen nothing of the lost ones yet. I wonder whether M^r Scott has them in London, but I fear not, as your having written to him on the subject, would have caused him to forward them coute qui coute immediately. I am so much diverted by the idea of your giving a Picnic in Asia. It is original certainly. Oh! how I should have enjoyed it. I do not think even the depressing Sirocco could have damped my spirits on the occasion. I am delighted to hear from my Father that your Dogs are on their way to you, so I trust the delay has not been so great as I expected. But dearest will not all these sad disturbances affect your stay at Therapia, or ~~are~~ ^{are} is our wise governors going to sit still while the Russian Bear hugs poor Turkey to atoms; That said animal clutches pretty tight when it has got firm hold. I cannot make out what is doing, or going to be done. The conflagration at Constantinople must have been a magnificent though an awful sight. Did you witness it from

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the water? I felt no alarm thank God! for your individual safety, knowing your distance from the scene of action. With regard to my Portrait dearest, you shall certainly have it, and I will go to the best person I can hear of, that you may have some chance of obtaining a likeness, instead of a scarecrow. As for trouble, or as you call it bore (your favorite^{word} and my other dislike) even were it ten times as much^{so} as it may be, I need not now assure you my own Wathen, that you can scarcely ask any thing in your Anna's power, that she will refuse you. My only fear is, it may not please you when done. However we can but try, though I believe I must delay it rather longer than you mention, as it will probably be two or three months before I am either in London or Bath. We stay here until after the 16th , when we shall go to Tattingstone. (M^r Rhodes James's) We then return to the Penrices at Yarmouth, and as they press us very much to stay with them until Christmas, I do not think it improbable that we may do so, and I shall revel in warm sea baths, and long walks on the fine sands, which will make me forget the town of Yarmouth, and if possible the Yarmouthians. I have become such a walker! M^{rs} Penrice and I walked to Norwich (5½ miles) the day before yesterday, and shopped afterwards. We did condescend to return in the Phaeton, but I was not

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in the least tired, and the day after walked another 4 miles. After this, I leave you to guess at the state of my health. I shall certainly end in becoming a female Hercules, only "would I were fatter". (Vide Julius Caesar) Now I must tell you that our Festivities have passed off delightfully, and we have had charming weather for them, which considering that we had the trajet to Norwich and back to perform twice a day, and many of the gentlemen outside passengers, was no small addition to our comfort. I did not miss one Morning Concert, and only one Evening one, which of course we have just heard was the best of the whole. I have^{been} charmed with the Oratorios. The Orchestre was excellent and the Chorusses perfect but owing to our sad defficiency in the Vocal performers, (Malibran, De Meric, and Donzelli, being the only

ones who were not miserable,) the Evening Concerts were certainly very poor – and the selection far from happy. De Berriot on the Violin was a splendid exception. I was absolutely enchanted, for I had never heard him before. The Ball in S^t Andrew's Hall, was I think as beautiful a sight as could be seen of its kind. The Hall was brilliantly lighted with Chandeliers, and most elegant Festoons of Gas. There were 1200 people, many of them in Fancy dress, and the remainder in Court or Full dress. Diamonds

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and Feathers ~~are~~ were sparkling and waving, and the whole ~~side~~^{end} of the Hall, where the Orchestre had been, was lined from the ceiling to the floor with spectators. The whole certainly formed as striking a coup d'oeil as I ever witnessed. Dancing was entirely out of the question, at least for me, as I do not like merely to push through a Quadrille. Quadrilles, Waltzes, and Gallopades however these were in profusion, but I sat like a Matron, in the Patronesse's Gallery. Once I went down and made the tour of the Room, but returned with my clothes considerably the worse for the scramble, so I desisted from farther incursions. To night we are going to a Ball at Aylsham, which they tell me, is to be very good. It is 18 miles off so I hope it will repay us. On the 16th there is another Grand ball at Norwich, which I believe we shall patronize, so you see, I am fairly come out of my shell, and am ~~lauch~~ launched on a sea of dissipation. I have excellent accounts of Ernest, who is well and happy. He passed a very agreeable week at Gopsall, and hopes soon to repeat the visit. Sainsbury, GG, and the Babes were quite well when I last heard of them. We shall pay them a visit as we return, but it will not be till some time after her confinement now I expect. God grant she may do well & her little one. Lady E Repton is again settled in Norfolk S^t. By the bye when you write, do tell me how you like the

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dressing case, as she so often asks me about it. Do also send me another plan of your apartment however rough, that I may

fancy you in it. Now for one word on the subject mentioned at the beginning of your letter. Do not my most beloved Brother, as I have often entreated you before – do not be too anxious, or lay too much stress, upon that fervency and intensity of devotional feelings, which but few in this world are permitted to enjoy. This depends not so much upon the state of the heart, as upon the natural constitution and temperament of individuals. Many, many a sincere and advanced Christian has probably seldom or ever felt it – and yet if performed seriously & devoutly, in faith and penitence, with a firm trust in God's ~~ability and~~ power and willingness to save to the uttermost all who come unto him, believe me dearest that man's service is as acceptable as that of him whose feelings are more excited and exalted. Persevere dearest – and your reward will be eternal. God bless and preserve thee. May He fortify thee under every trial, and support and strengthen thee under every temptation. Depend upon it my Wathen, He will never tempt you above what you are able to bear, but will with the temptation, make a way for you to escape, if you pray for Grace to enable you to avoid yourself of it.

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Diligent watchfulness and fervent prayer are our best weapons, against the world, the flesh and the devil. Use these my Wathen, and ^{at last} you will be more than Conquerer, through Him who loved you.

Once ~~on~~ more God bless thee. Would I could tell thee, how entirely you possess the devoted and fond affection of

Your very own Sister & Friend.
Anna Eliza Jarrett

[address]

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