

Outside the Box

Transcription

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Camerton
October 23rd. 1837

My own beloved Brother, and dearest Kate!
To both do I now address myself, much fearing ^{however} ~~how~~ing that my Wathen will have left Brussels, before this can reach him, and that therefore in spite of my anxiety to prevent it, he will hear first from other lips, instead of from my pen, the astounding piece of news I have to tell, and which I know will cause such true joy to you both. Now then the secret shall out – Listen dear ones – After having been for 14 years a Wife, I may now hope, should it please the Almighty to spare me and my expected treasure to become a Mother about the latter end of February next. To describe to you, the feelings of deep and fervent gratitude, with which my heart overflows, when I think of all the many, great and undeserved blessings already bestowed upon ^{me} and this, the crowning one of all, is quite impossible – At times my heart feels bursting, and it is almost too much for me – Help me dear ones, to praise and glorify the Name of that Gracious and Heavenly Father, who has thus abundantly blessed me, and pray for me too, that I may become daily less unworthy of his benefits,

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that I may not forget the Giver in the Gift, or cling with too great fondness to that world, which

His bounty has made to smile so prosperously upon me – Oh! may I be led seriously to consider, the awful responsibility such mercy involves – “To whom much is given, of him will much be required” – Alas! How little have I to give! What a poor return can I make at best for all His Goodness – and how very far do I fall short even of what I might render unto My God! – Pray for me also, that I may “rejoice with trembling” – that I may remember that “the Lord giveth “and Lord taketh away” – and should He in his unerring wisdom see fit to disappoint my hopes, ~~or~~ to deprive me of any of the blessings which surround me – ~~or~~ ^{and} to take me to Himself in the midst of my enjoyment of them, oh! may His Holy Spirit teach me to see, acknowledge and adore his merciful hand, as well in what he denies, as in what he bestows, and ~~may~~ † (weak, sinful & helpless as I am in myself) yet in every trial he may appoint me, however grievous or painful to flesh and blood, may I ever seek and find that Divine strength, that Almighty and surely-promised support and consolation, which can alone enable me, humbly, entirely, and cheerfully to submit myself to ~~His~~ every dispensation of His Providence. Would you could see my darling Husband’s

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happy face, and hear his joyous voice – It would do your kind hearts good. He is almost wild with delight, and the relief from the suspense and anxiety of the last few months, serves now but but to heighten our pleasure. The concealment has certainly been very painful to me, but I dared not say a word of my suspicions, until time had confirmed them beyond the probability at least of self deception, and doubtless the exertions which such concealment rendered it necessary for me to make have done me good – I am wonderfully well – and every body says, I never looked so well in all my life, and you ^{know} what every body says, must be true! – I wrote to my dear Father yesterday, and would have enclosed a note for you my Wathen, but I knew, it must be useless, as long before you could break the seal, Papa would have told you what I wish you so much to know from myself – This was of course, in case you should be off before the arrival of this. If so Kate will open it, and please dearest Kit, if it so happens, as soon as you have read it, forward it back by the first post to England – for

my own Wathen – I am to be confined in Town, and my dearest & kind friend Lady Elizabeth has promised to be with me, in my hour of trial. This will be the

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greatest delight and comfort to me, for nowhere could I find a better human support – Sir Charles Clarke or Mr Stone will attend me, and Lady E. has written to secure me an excellent monthly nurse. I suppose we shall be moving the beginning of

January, as we are to make Sonning, and I suppose Froyle resting places, on our road, and we should be quietly settled by earliest days in February – I have requested Papa to take us in for a week or ten days, while we look about for a house, in an easy situation, and near my doctor if possible – You may imagine

[page 5, cross-hatching on page 4]

the multitude of letters we have to write
so I will say no more than God for ever bless and preserve
you both
and your
darling Babe.

Your most
affec^{te} and
Happy
Sister
Anna

[address]

Wathen Waller Esq^{re}
Secretary of Legation
Brussels

If gone – to be
opened by Mrs
Waller –