

Blue Print. L. D. Oct 10 1884

Mr's Sallie Holley.

I have been doing my utmost to find a chance to reply to your welcome and beautiful letter of the 20th ult, with its lovely specimen of the roses from your Eden. I wanted to write you a letter or is a letter, having no news, I wanted to tell you, that you do not, cannot realize how happy you are in having such a lovely retreat - the world shut out, and you privileged to be so entirely yourself. No one says why do you so? You are monarch of all you survey, and can achieve your beneficent work without let or hindrance, royally your own work.

My study of you seems to have
been warmly welcomed by the
public, even our village paper
published it entire, and several
paragraphs and references
have been quoted & sent me.
I hope the Index sent you a good
supply of the numbers. I sent you
half of what came to me here.
I suppose Fowler & Wells have
^{written} sent to you for a Photograph.
They wrote me for one, and would
like they said to use any sketch
&c. Tell me if you have suffered
in consequence. I hope not
but that it will open the eyes
of people to appreciate your
work. I should say, though they
have doubtless communicated
with you in the matter, that

You wish to have a portrait
of you engraved for their maga.
One this you doubtless have
the Brooklyn Magazine, & will
relieve that day of loveliness when
we went to old Geocombe. I wish
Mr. Tallen will see that the Rev.
Mr. Brooke has a copy of it; and
will you please present my
kind regards to the members of
the Tallen family. I should have
been so happy to pass a few
days with them, but I was need-
ed at home. Say all that is
kind to Mrs. Strong about our last
visit, which we might so well
have enjoyed, I recall her
genuine face with interest
and shall not soon forget

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These pleasant well-mannered
children, I spoke to her about
some Sunflower seeds, which
I shall try to send her.

Oh! those fine rides, how I wish
it had been possible for me
to join you! but no - I hardly
go off the premises, am obliged
to keep steadily at my pen or
the thousand nothings essential
in a household. The two girls
send love, and are delighted at
the promise of the baskets, as
they were with the gifts from
you I brought them. They are
in great demand for singing &
recitations in the village
concerts - Last night a carriage
was sent several miles to take

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them to one at Waverley, where
they seem to have been greatly
admired. Their father is far
from well - but I try not to
distrust the future.

I have written Mr Bosc (who
by the way sent me this nice
paper,) what you say about
the Brooklyn Magazine, and
he promised to send you several
copies with Circulars &c The
young man is working a great
deal too hard; but finds time
to write Aurora very pretty
love letters - not over hot,
which she receives with a sweet
quolish delight. I have just read
about a woman who lived to
be a hundred and twenty years

and then died young! It seems to me in her case she ought to throw out the century, call herself 25 and go in for a lover. Age has so little to do with the heart, I find charming people, who count up years! Old Montaigne whom you know I greatly affect says "love suits only the young" and he talks about being old at fifty - but Miss Gurney had a most tender, maidenly love for him at 60. These things come home to me because of a trifle that occurred since my return - but as the song says, "I'm over young to marry yet!."

Do you know I am greatly pleased that your friends

in Virginia took a liking to me, I was very much pleased with their simple, unaffected manner, and charming good sense, and wish I could meet them again. Who knows? I shall not forget them. Oh! that fruit! that delicious fruit! and the roses! ah! it was a dream of Arcadia, at your house, and I love to speak of it daily and of you.

I am urged to make my Autobiography ready for the public, and after reading what I have written I am encouraged to think it will not be presumptuous in me to write and print my story. but nobody would be willing to write his inner

quest, and if there is any magnitude in a character, the steps ~~to~~ toward it seem puerile.

I dropped a postal to Mrs Miller since my return but have no reply. We have kept the homoponice till yesterday or it retained some prettiness - but we opened it & put the seeds away for planting. Thank you for the Castor beans - they are much larger and finer colored than our seeds of the same species and I have promised to give a part of yours to my daughter in law to plant in N. C.

I have much more, that were I with you in our twilight & laths would be said, but now only that I am affectionately yours
Elizabeth Cakes Smith.