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31 Trafalgar Square

Scarborough

14th June 1868.

My dear Mrs Gilchrist

Would you believe that it was a real relief to me to find that your kind letter did not contain an invitation to Brookbank? A curious effect this of your kindness to me: but the truth is I have been so unwell that I must have said "no" had you asked me; and I was not ambitious of uttering the ungracious syllable. My Mother and one of my aunts make up our small health-seeking party here, and though I am not yet in full bloom I have made a long step from my stand-point a