

166 Albany St., London, N. W.  
Thursday evening.

My dear Mrs Gilchrist

Thank you for such a delightfully kind letter received this morning. Please give my love to your three young people: I am truly pleased if they remember me, but suspect Grace's reminiscence of being somewhat shadowy. You do not tell me how your house alterations have prospered: well, I hope, they looked so promising in theory. Thank you very much for regretting the long while which has elapsed since we met. I have become such a dread<sup>ful</sup> old fidget (by comparison) over my own health, as to preclude the possibility of my running down for a glimpse of you and your pleasant belongings. One main object with us at present is, <sup>my</sup> not ~~to~~ running great risks of catching cold, which might end in my banishment for the winter; this happily has not yet been so much as mentioned: indeed I am

now very tolerable if only I can keep so.

Our small continental tour proved enjoyable beyond words; a pleasure in ones life never to be forgotten. My Mother throve abroad, and not one drawback worth dwelling upon occurred to mar our contentment. Such unimaginable beauties and grandeur of nature as we beheld no pen could put on paper; so I obviously need not exert myself to tell you what Lucerne was like, or what the lovely majesty of Mount S. Gothard, or what the lake of Como with its nightingale accompaniment, or what as much of Italy as we saw to our half Italian hearts. Its people is a noble people, and its very cattle are of high born aspect; I am glad of my Italian blood. I don't say a word about art treasures, the truth being that I far prefer nature treasures; but we saw glorious specimens of both classes. Our longest stay was at Milan; where we witnessed a rather interesting ceremony, the unveiling by

Prince Umberto of a statue of Cavour. At Milan too we went over a most interesting institution, the Ospedale Maggiore; the children ward was quite a pretty sight with its population of poor little patients. Of course I could run on indefinitely with disjointed scraps and facts, but this sample may suffice.

Another point on which I owe you thanks is the acquisition of so amiable a friend as Miss Emily Newton: I like her much, she seems so really estimable.

Gabriel dined with us today; and that is worth saying because we have so few acquaintances in common. Do you recollect how I battered on your Plato last time I was at Brookbank? I have since become possessed of an own private Plato, my Mother having given him me for my last birthday. On the same occasion I was enriched with Jean Ingelow's Poems, with which my first

thorough acquaintance was made at  
your house).

May I offer you my Mother's and  
Sister's kind regards, though they have  
not yet the pleasure of knowing you?  
Anyone who is kind to me has a claim on  
them. Till our next meeting whenever they  
may be, and not the day after it, pray  
believe me

Affectionately yours

Christina J. Rossetti.

