

30 Old Burlington St.  
Wednesday.

You were kind enough to wish  
to hear the result of our  
sad degrading history -

After the fullest examina-  
tion & consultation, the opinion  
given is that "insanity  
or permanent aberration is  
the inevitable consequence,  
unless my sister is removed  
from home & placed under  
a firm & wise hand." My  
poor Mother can be brought  
neither to see nor understand.  
They go on ordering their  
winter clothes & arranging  
their Autumn parties, as if  
their horrible fate were not  
hanging over them - They  
are like children playing  
on the shore of the eighteenth

Century - Oh! don't laugh.  
For it is like seeing people  
getting among the mangled  
bodies of their kin. So we  
play thro' life among the  
mangled souls of those we  
love.

My father cannot even  
be persuaded to come up to  
town to see his James Clark.  
I have had to walk by  
stealth alone at night to  
get the medical men to come  
to us. It is well for me that  
the Sisters of Charity have  
taught me the way to do odd  
things -

Under these circumstances,  
I have but one course to  
pursue. No one will act

but me. My people return  
on Thursday to their own  
home in Hampshire - meaning  
to take me with them to  
undertake the care of my  
sister at home - The medical  
men are decidedly of opinion  
that my presence <sup>at home</sup> aggravates  
the disease. I have therefore  
said that Sir James Clark  
having given this awful  
warning, I cannot think  
it right to take a part in  
a way of going on which  
he has said will have  
such consequences - If my  
dear parents cannot think  
it right to make the  
change he prescribes, I hope  
that they will not blame me  
for withdrawing from taking

pass in a way of life in  
which I must either yield  
to my sister to her destruction  
(his James Clark having  
secretly stated that the  
brain is actually in a state  
of disease & that yielding  
to her must increase the  
state of the brain) or by  
opposition to her wishes &  
ideas I must be perpetually  
increasing her nervous  
excitement & fostering the  
monomania about me. I  
have, at the same time,  
offered to take the whole  
charge of her, without a  
guinea, (which the education  
I have received at different  
places has made me  
competent to do). Away from  
home, at any place the  
medical men may name  
I <sup>will</sup> be, at any time, wherever

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I am, they may recall me  
to do this & I shall consider  
myself bound to come -

The question remains  
what am I to do with a  
stranded ship which  
appears to be useless now  
to every body? If I were  
to go to Paris immediately,  
I am told that I should  
hasten the catastrophe by  
the fits of tears & hysterics  
I should produce - & which  
I am well accustomed to,  
(in our Kaiser's courts). You  
asked me whether I had  
anticipated this - Oh! for such  
long, long weary years have  
I been expecting it that  
it is almost a relief it  
has come at last.

I believe I shall go for  
the present to the duties  
nearest at hand - & must

a sick aunt. I wait to see  
what I can find out to be  
God's work for me.

I am blamed by everybody,  
most of all by themselves,  
for seeking duty away from  
the sphere in which it has  
pleased God to place me.

Hardly any body has any  
idea of the true state of the  
case, excepting the Medical  
Men, for with the coming  
of Monomania, every thing  
is smooth outside. It is  
only known that my sister  
has bad health & what  
I can be doing away  
from home, "Nobody care  
understand." under such circumstances.

I know you will pray for  
us, for the poor shattered  
brain - & for the worn &  
weary spirit, which would

so gladly have given us life's  
blood, & her.

Forgive me this long story.  
I think you can hardly  
complain of my "persistence" now.  
I hope that I have told the  
history of my woes not for  
the pleasure of talking of  
myself, but because, in  
your direction of young ladies,  
it may really be of some  
use & know what certain  
modes of life will lead to.

I have not even the comfort  
of thinking that the organiza-  
tion was defective &  
that therefore it has come  
more directly from the hands  
of God. For I am told that  
there is nothing here which  
might not have been pre-  
vented, which might not  
be prevented now. Any  
story which I tell must

sound like a long complaint,  
which I most earnestly  
desire to avoid. For God  
is very good -

You accuse me of excess.  
But if you knew how ear-  
nestly I have desired a  
friend & prayed for a  
counsellor.

I wished to say one thing  
more about myself - which  
is that, if you are kind  
enough to see the Abbe  
Des Genettes or the Superior  
on my account, I should  
be glad that neither the  
patients nor the Sisters  
should know that I was not  
a Catholic.

I do not ask you to write,  
for I know well how much  
you have to do - But if at  
any time you should kindly  
have any communication to  
make,