sorry to say Mary had not gained the situation I mentioned to you the Gentleman changed his mind & sent his daughter to school. They w.d like situations as English governesses in Summer about Feather hill, in preference - but there are not the kind of Gallaries - I am staying a few days at Smithills & am ready to quarrel with Mrs P. H. for the very bad writing materials with which she has furnished me - I hope the ink will be darker by the time it reaches you or you will think me as shabby thoughtless person that I try your eyesight —

Saturday 22 March 1828.

Mrs Gaskell
Plymouth
Italy.

We are longing for the pleasure of your next letter, tho' it will not come quite into our neighbourhood. I trust it will give us a continued good account of you all my dear friends. Jane charged me to give her especial kind love & good wishes & her share abundance of your own to add. Peter & Shipley also not to be forgotten! we constantly talk of you all. Believe me my dear Friend Ever affectionately yours
Alice Ainsworth

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Thorvaldsens Museums

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Thorvaldsens Museums
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My dear Mrs Gaskell,

I am particularly glad to write to you at this time as I am able to give you an improved account of Mrs Brandreth - we had yesterday the pleasure of hearing that she was much better & was able to go out in the pony chair for a little air & gentle exercise - She is gaining strength altogether better, tho' still suffering from occasional attacks of Spasms; but this, from the nature of the complaint must be expected & Dr B. says her recovery will be tedious: it is a great satisfaction that she is decidedly convinced that her liver is not affected, & tho the suffering from the gallstones is indeed bad enough, all the medical men agree that it is not attended with danger, or alarming symptoms, & when the attack is over She will not necessarily be liable to a return, nor will her constitution be so shaken as it might have been had She been obliged to submit to the severe remedies tried for these complaints - She writes very nicely & cheerfully about herself - so grateful for the kind interest her illness has excited - I trust She will ere long be fully rewarded for her patience - Mrs J. Brandreth has been very uneasy about her little folks for several weeks; the two eldest Hermands are now pretty stout again, but the baby is still very far from well - poor little thing, it took the measles after the others, & after several days of danger, struggled thro' a bad attack of that sad complaint & is now better, to the Surprise of all Dr B. & Mr Gaskell - when the weather is a little warmer Harriet intends having a cottage at Scarby & trying what Sea air will do to strengthen them all - it will be a nice convenient situation & kind Mrs Brandreth in point of distance very well - the elder children are quite I believe, & I am happy to add that my Mother is better again - I feel in more cheerful spirits about her, & hope her general health will be improved when the warm season will admit of her living more in the air. Our neighbours at the Cottage Longsuts & Smithills are all well & gay, in their several ways, at present.

20 1828

1st my Uncle has been one fine morng. lately to come forth from his winter quarters & take his station with his arms leaning on the gate of his field to gaze in silent admiration of the beauty of his cows for some time - as sure a sign this, of the mild balmy & delightful days as the un-returning Dove - 2d the Norris's are frequent in their visitations & their hospitable tea drinkings 3d Peter & Eliz.th arrive all the bustle & excitement of preparation for their continental adventures - collecting letters & books, & maps & plans, & other people's thoughts & experiences & ways of going on - in all most amply assisted - as you may fancy by Miss Duckworth - She & Eliz.th have pegging at Germ.n, absorbed in despair at its difficulties, yet animated by its odd compound words. Miss D. jokingly says (en attendre & her visit & travel & her regret & leave London at this time) that her life like her education is to be full of disadvantages & the same I think may be said of this tour - Imagine D.r Somerville's contribution of 27 pages of instruction for Holland only - that talk of going in London on the 8.th of April & sailing two days after, but whether to Ostend or Rotterdam & what their subsequent route is still undecided. I wonder I have written thus far without saying that your kind little note to Eliz.th is duly arrived - I am delighted & think how well all circumstances seem to arrange themselves for your continued enjoyment - I trust & pray that the Society from which you have so much pleasure will be so widely scattered on your return home. The Norris's & Stades are reminded & find you have not their friends the Venturers & seem pleased by your remembrance of them - By this time I conclude you will be at Naples I expect you will be charmed with the coast scenery & the boating excursions & the islands & interesting spots in the neighbourhood I almost fear the conclusion of your journey will be more hurried than it ought to be. I trust you all three keep well, & that you will be careful not to expose yourselves when the hot weather sets in. Your sojourn on the lake of Geneva will be delightful in many ways - how much you will enjoy your morning drives in the open carriage - You will hear of the famous majority for the Repeal of the Corporation Test acts of course, notwithstanding the march of

mind & the enlightened age there was not wanting a party of the old School in Bolton with Mr Slade & Lt.t Fletcher at its head & protest & petition against the measure. The Duke of Wellington presented their liberal remonstrance & the gov.t & parliament (Miss Duckworth's remark was good) "so Bolton has not been able to over power the feeling of the nation about the repeal of the test & corporation acts!!!" I fancy you have not heard from Lupset lately I should be able & sur: prise you not a little by announcing the marriage of (whom do you think?) Miss Potter to Mr. Needham a Dyer! the news when it not will attested &. seem incredible & quite important & certain - le vrai vient par toujours le traduction Hable" you will say. he is not very affluent so she still continues to teach the young ideas how to shoot. Give my love to Mrs Gaskell & tell him I sympathize with one on the loss of all chances of ever seeing Chiny mistress of the gay lowwindows & tempting hobbs in Bedford Street - Mrs. Lloyd is also going to marry his young country cousin, whose education & report says he has for some time superintended. any list of marriages in a little longer still. Mr Robert Gray of Bolton (this also for Mr Gaskell's amusement) is to be married almost immediately & Miss Taylor of Bradford House. an attachment of 14 years! surely such constancy deserves the reward - Miss Stanhope (once of Cannon Hall) is married to a gentleman who has a well sounding place in Surrey, but I am so stupid as to have forgotten his name - I am sorry that I have no thing to tell you of Mrs Lyall, but of late I have not been much out & have had many letters from that quarter - Mrs Cautman & the Children are still at Hampstead - Mr & Mrs W. Duckworth planning a tour on the Continent for this Summer - Sarah & I still talk of going to London for a short time after Easter. The state of painful anxiety of our poor friends at Bolton is at last at an end - Mrs H. Ainsworth expired yesterday morning very peacefully - all her children except two Berwick Leaguers attending - circumstance was comforting & calming to their feelings - throughout her illness she had no kind of pain or suffering - her mind seemed as easy at her last moments as during painful recollections of their situation. She appeared happy to be very happy & now came on more like gentle sleep than death - Nothing respecting their plans is settled. I am