

Sycamore Cottage Feby 23rd 1843

My Dear Sir

I rec'd your friendly letter with great pleasure Oct^r 15th & was very glad to hear you was going on so well, we always look for your (letter) when the month come in. It was my intention to have written from London from whence I return'd last night oweing to my Sister Wass being very ill but I am thankful to say she is recovering, Catherine Wass had been staying a short time with us & had become the mother of a lovely boy while here & I had return'd with them to London intending to stay some months longer. I like London so much & have my health so good there that I should like to make it my home had I not so many relatives who cry out against it. We have continued changes in our family. Ann Wass was married last March & my Sister had just return'd from Hayfield where she had been nursing her in her confinement she married Mr Lucas's brother. Sally is going to have another increase my Sister (scribble) I may have a life of nursing if it please God we are able. Luke Alsop was also married last spring they are living in a part of Lea Hall & Eliza Alsop of Lea Bridge is to be married if all be well in a few weeks to one of our ministers a Mr Williams, but I shall tire you with our family history. I will touch upon another in our neighbourhood whom you once knew & has not forgot Mr Holes came to live at Harveys farm last spring & since

Page Two

that Elizabeth is married to a farmer in Herefordshire George is also married & John I heard yesterday has been married a week or too & brought his wife to Dethick thus you see in this quiet out of the world place what changes we have. Dethick Chapel is very well attended Mr Hubbersly very well lik'd. Miss Wathy & her brothers are all in delicate health William very much so. Some months ago the clerk & Bedle at Cromford died both very suddenly & I think the singers are Clerks at present without any other. I. Stone is one of them they have four men & too girls & have capital singing. Mr Greville I think is become a very rational useful man again in Bonsall I see him at the Study sometimes, my Sister Allen has very poor health but just now is pretty well Mr Allen is very well & his father but delicate at 83 years of age they have 28 boys in the house. They desired I would remember them kindly to you when I wrote I saw your Brother some months ago he is looking much as usual I think his wife is keeping a public House in Wirksworth & he & a part of the family are at a farm as hover way from here. I shall send their letter to Catherine who wishes to write to you & she will forward it to the Missionary house. My Sister & Mary desire to be kindly remembered to you & with the greatest respect believe me your sincere friend A. Alsop (PS Do write at the usual time [])

Page Three

My dear Friend,

My Aunt Anne has given such an "eventful history" of the doings in our village" that what remains for my recital must be tame and insipid, nevertheless, I doubt not my few lines meeting with kind reception. I had intended writing in the last epistle sent to you from Aunt Anne, but she, not knowing my purpose, sent it off. I have just commended the 'responsibilities' of married life namely- a child, and a house, whilst scribbling this letter, I am rocking the cradle with the left hand; figures to yourself a housekeeper and Mother, and not the reader of poetry and romance it is "no fiction" nursing a baby! – I am glad to hear of your

Crosswritten on Page One

continued prosperity amongst your large family, you never say whether you admire the Indian ladies, nor, if there be any likelihood of one of them being a M^{rs} John Smithurst, I will at once “pop the question” are you already married? The report is widely circulated that such is the case, perhaps you will be intelligent on this point in your next communication— I staid a great part of last Summer in Derbyshire, my baby was born at Sycamore Cottage the end of October, his Papa is a high Tory and Churchman and has named his son, Arthur, to perpetuate the

Crosswritten Page Two

hero of Waterloo. I added a second name, Alsop. — You will think I am very egotistical, to write so lengthily about me & mine, but as all the striking incidents have headed this epistle, I lack a subject — I have one of Aron Stoppords girls with me as a servant, which is rather home-like. Mrs Wass and her daughters are long in your house, Mr I: was formerly a foreman of Mr Malkers— My Brother is still very successful in his mining. The Cavern at Wakebridge yields a great quantity of ore, he has occasion for a good trade as he has eight children and plenty a mouth(?) to support. Joseph, his eldest, is finishing

Crosswritten Page Three

his education with Mr Hubbersly he is a fine boy as tall as his Papa, his parents intended him for a profession, but he has not that bent, he prefers the Lead business, three of the children are at the Study— I believe your old Friend, Mr Ward, is still living, he was at Matlock last summer. Mrs Collingwood has nine children. —

Mr Nightingale’s visits Lea for a few months, as (?) it is said that they are going on the Continent to retrench, owing to a Bank having failed in Sheffield, of the firm Parker, Shore, & Co. Mrs Shore of Tipton had 30,000 £ there deposited, Miss Evans 500. — Anthony Alsop has begun to practice for himself at Bolsther, he is doing very well so far

Page Four

You will be much amused at the variety of matter this letter contains, but when we have only one sheet of paper to say every thing upon, the beauty of diction must not be thought of, I am now on the margin, so must

bring my correspondence to an end—

tomorrow is “pancake day”!! — My address is, “No. 8. Maryland — Place, Great Bland St., Dover Road, London.”

Crosswritten on Page Four

with many good wishes that you may “go on your way rejoicing” believe me your sincere friend

Catherine Wasse.