

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Portsmouth 5th November 1805

My beloved Father, The arrival of the Quebec Fleet was most wellcome intelligence to me as I had flattered myself I should have rec^d packets of letters from my dear friends in Canada but I am sorry to say I have not had one however I trust to be more fortunate another time and impute such disappointment [to] the letters having miscarried as I doubt not many were written to come by that opportunity.

From the rumour of expected augmentation to our Corps I had imagined that we should have been removed to Woolwich long e're this as My dear Meredith wants but two vacancies to give him the next step in the Reg^t however we have heard nothing more on the subject lately and were it not for the sake of promotion I should prefer remaining here as we find this a very pleasant quarter and a very lively one from the sucession of people to and fro from various parts of the World the weather is delightful for the time of year My dear M. myself and our youngest darling walk out every day to respire the sea Breeze exercise has been recommended to me as I have been very unwell lately the medical men consulted on the occasion call it nervous. I take Bark every day and find myself much better and my strength greatly recruited and could the most endearing attentions of a truly affectionate husband restore me to health I should soon be quite well. The favorable reports I frequently receive of my dear children's progress at school cannot fail of inspiring me with much comfort they posess very proper ideas and I trust will do well. My dear Meredith is in tolerable health but quite thin to what you knew him you may always know his approach by hearing him sing he is merry and wise

My little Elizabeth is now learning to read and is really very entertaining by the shrewd remarks she often makes she is our daily companion in our rambles and whilst I am writing this is pretending to work I sometimes give her a pretty little pair of scissars to cut out with they belong to a tortoise shell case which my dearest Mother gave me she is fond of shewing them to people and says these scissars belong to My dear Grandmama. We this morning rec^d a