

It is said My dear Kitty, that when we are happy and satisfied with our own situation, we are apt to be in good humour with all the world. I am rejoiced to see that your present feelings exactly accord with this text and tho' I do not disclaim my title to your affection, nor value it the less for the generosity with which it is bestowed, I fear a little of the enthusiasm of your praise has its origin in the complacency of your own mind rather than any merit of mine. I thank you never the less very sincerely for the affectionate lines addressed to me in Maria's letter, and had she not bade me read the foregoing pages, I should have appropriated them without a comment and assure you they were reciprocated in my own breath, but My dear Girl, that your good opinion of me may be lasting, it is my interest to remove an erroneous one of my superiority, and to assure you were we placed nearer to each other, you would find me as often laying claims to your forbearance as the rest of your associates. Good nature is very apt to give credit for many virtues, where they have not been able to detect faults, but experience and intimate intercourse discovers to us that it requires the continual exercise of our own virtues to keep up that respect for the virtues of other people--and as you say you have just become acquainted with me and feel the glow of kindness warm into affection, I must try and cherish it with moderation, lest it should be consumed by enthusiasm, and leave only the embers of disappointment.

I may say, too, my dear Kitty, that I have only now become acquainted with you, for I never before saw that *gaieté de coeur* which is so attractive, and so invaluable in domestic life. I hope



it will continue to illumine your own domicile, and that when cases do arise (for what human being can escape them) the transient cloud may pass over your summer sky, and leave unhurt that chastic principle which sheds a brightness over your character.

Give my love to the girls. I shall write to Richea soon, and if I could hope to receive an answer would write to Fanny too. She is too selfish of her talents at present. I expect she means to surprise her friends some of these days by coming out with the result of her studies -- but she should take care, for she cannot "hide her light under a bushel" and people having had a glimpse, may form expectations accordingly and not be taken by surprise after all.

Your brother is down stairs -- not indeed waiting for my letter -- and surely not waiting to see me, but as time and tide will wait for no man, I must not keep him too long, as he begins his journey at twelve.

And now My dear Kitty, if you think a friend of yours, will for your sake, accept my regards, I beg you will present them to him, accompanied by my best wishes and believe me My dear Girl very sincere in offering the same to you, with the

Affection of your friend and cousin,

R. G.