

Letter from FCHN to daughter

18/04/1890

Ringmore Rectory, "Kingsbridge":

10 April, 1890.

My dearest Meg.

I must, now and then, "drop you a line", as the saying is; or you will "have a grievance." - I fear, an imaginary one, for "the Ladies of the Family", as I understand, commit to writing a full and accurate report of everything that is said and done

~~by each of us in a way of~~
material left for me to operate upon in the letter-writing way! No doubt you have learnt, by this time, to put your foot stidly in womankind, and to say contemptuously
MANISTOOBAD!

Well, - I suppose that "Ann" has, ere this, received the great Family Pastoral Letter touching the returning-home-in-August scheme. It has been discussed

considered, and weighed incessantly (I
mean the scheme, not the P. L.), ever since
it descended like a thunderbolt in our midst.
We have scarcely recovered, yet, from the shock.
Views diverged a little, at first, — as is always
the case. But, after a while, we arrived
at a tolerably unanimous conclusion that
the decision to re-cross the Atlantic Ocean
was arrived at prematurely — i. e., without
giving the Canadian life a fair trial.
However, I need not enter into details, —
for you have been having "line upon line" and
"precept upon precept" from the others for
some time past; which means must food
for reflection on your parts rather than
any need of further supplies from this side.
Of course "Mabel" has sent you copious
torrents of indignant description of that

... Captain Maxse. The fact is
he is an irredeemable scoundrel, nearly
as bad as Gladstone. Poor Rosie don't like
it at all. Of course, she is disgusted.
But she is beginning to see, now, that
she has had a lucky escape from no
one can tell what amount of misery.
You aged & venerable Peter attained the
mature age of 57 on the 31st ultimo,
and your "jolly" little Epistle as nearly
as possible hit the mark. So did dear
Bernie's from his far-off home - only
a day late. You both all but hit
the bull's-eye, - not bad for such a long
range!

Everybody is in the wandering way now.
Mary is houlking - at her old quarters
i.e. Brighton. Katie just going to Bath
for Malvern. Herbert & Chaps circulating

as usual in holiday fashion. Mother, Rose,
Grace & Kate actually going off to Ilfracombe
for a fortnight! Mr. Oppen elected Deacons,
to succeed Mr. Kelly (who is to be Vic. of Okehampton)
Influenza came to us at last, & remained nearly
4 wks. gone, now. I escaped. A great many cases
some had all the woodwork of the village except is
painted Indian Red - looks so nice. The Grangers
gone, at last: very sorry. New people called
Wright: very different sort, but nice & hearty.
Okehampton buildings all done at last; large
new Court going up on the hill. The dear old
Admiral has passed his 99th birthday - so he is
now well on his way to complete the Century.
He is still, by special privilege, on the Active list,
C.F. receiving full pay as (Senior) Admiral of the
Fleet - and liable for active service!! He is the
oldest Naval Officer in the world.

Our best love to you, dear child, and to Ann -
I trust you will none of you, do any wild thing,
when such serious issues are involved. I feel
that I must not interfere.

Ever, dearest Reg,

Your most affectionate Father,

J. C. H. R.