

Outside the Box

Transcript

Document title:	Letter	CR number (if known):	CR 341/327/111a and b
Document description:	Letter from Anna Jarrett in Grosvenor Square to her brother Wathen in Brussels	Date (if known):	12 February 1838
		Page number (if known):	1- 6

27 Grosvenor Sq[au]^{r[e]}
Feb[ruary]^y 12th
1838

The very first use I make of my long idle pen, shall be to write to you my beloved Brother, and to thank you and dear Kate a thousand times for all the warm and affect[iona]^{te} wishes & congratulations your letters conveyed to me - Full well do I know their sincerity, and prize them accordingly. Oh my Wathen! God has indeed dealt mercifully with me - He has mercifully preserved me, in such anguish, as without his support, human nature could never endure, he has given me a precious babe, strong and healthy, and he has confirmed his loving kindness ever since so ^{that} I am rapidly regaining health & strength.

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Well may my heart be full of gratitude and my lips of praise - It was many days 'ere I could think on the subject without tears - My heart felt bursting -

And even now I can scarce believe it -
To feel that all is safely over, that I am
really "A Mother" that sacred tender
name, I never dreamt ^{till lately} of being
permitted to claim – to think that, the
precious, placid, lovely darling, by my
side and nestled in my bosom,
is really mine! I do assure you dearest,
I cannot as yet realize it as a fact.
May God enable me to devote the
live [sic] he has spared more truly and
sincerely to his service, and may His
Grace assist and His Spirit direct me,
in training up the treasure he has
bestowed, in his fear & love, that is, should

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His Mercy see fit to preserve it to me.
Dear John is delighted with his babe,
though a little disappointed at its not
being a Boy! I always felt so sure it
would be a girl, but I never could make
him think so. I have had many visits
from many that I love, and have been
strong enough to enjoy them. I now get
up at two O'clock - dine at
3, and then walk into the
drawing room for the rest
of the day. (N. B. I did not set foot to the
ground till the 15th day) M^r Stone's tale
is always the same – "As little medicine
"as possible - plenty of Beef, Mutton, Venison,
"pheasant, partridge, chicken - calfs foot
"jelly, and two glasses of wine." Does not
that sound like an Invalid!! For these last
few days however I have got a horrible tooth
ache, which without being a real drawback
makes me feel uncomfortable enough, and
does not so well agree with the mastication
of the above viands. M^r Stone threatens me with

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Cartwright! I think I had almost rather fall into his hands ~~th~~ again than a dentist's. At least then, there is something to show for it. My dear Father has been very kind - Scarcely a day has passed without my seeing him for a few minutes. Now and then he looks also at the bantling, and has consented to be Godpapa. We hoped to have it christened about the 26th and I am to be church'd at the same time. I am anxious not to postpone it, as we are very desirous to have the chick vaccinated before we leave Town. It will then be done under M^r Stone's eye, which will be a great satisfaction to me. Apropos I ~~am~~ have fallen completely in love with said gentleman. He is all kindness, and very attentive, tho' his visits are like flashes of lightning - He is gone, before you are quite sure he was there. We think the young lady's name ~~is to~~^{will} be Anna Eliza. Annie Gooch is asked to be one Godmother, and we thought it right to propose to Aunty Stephen's to be the other. We have not got an answer yet.

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Now dearest before I conclude I must say a few words on the subject of your letter written just before my confinement, but which I did not ~~receive~~^{read} till nearly a fortnight afterwards. Believe me my Wathen, I did not mean to be harsh, in what I said respecting our dear Father, and I must have expressed myself badly did I not give you to understand that I was fully aware it was only [?manner] and that I acquitted him not only of meaning to be unkind and cold, but

even of the consciousness that
his manner could appear so.
I quite remember saying this,
but I believe you are right, and that
I had better not have given utterance
to the disappointment I felt even to you,
but I am so apt to write you my thoughts.
My feelings are quick, and where I longed
to bestow affection and expected a return,
I felt chilled, and did not perhaps
make sufficient allowance for the difference
of our feelings. Besides there was probably
much self-love mixed up with it too, for I forgot
that the subject just then of so absorbing an
interest to me, could not be quite the same to him,

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nor did I sufficiently ^{remember} how many other things
he has to do and think of, many of them
vexatious enough, which of course must
naturally occupy his mind much, and
intermingle with, though not detract from
the kind anxiety, I am sure he did feel
on my account though he did not express it at
that moment. At any rate dearest I will
take the hint, and be on my guard, so
that your kind and brotherly advice shall
not be thrown away upon me. Of Lady Elizabeth
I have seen but very little. She has been far

[crosshatched on page 6]

from well, and also much occupied
in making her will, so that we have
met but seldom, but believe me, when I say
that I have
never heard
any thing
of the nature
you mention
and that
I think and

hope you
have mis=
=judged her
on that subject.
Lord Eldon's
property is
sworn under
£700,000.
What a sum
for a man to
make, who began
the world with
£120 per ann[um]:

[crosshatched on p 5]

Now my beloved Brother I must not say
much more, for I shall be scolded if I am
caught writing so long a letter. Tell ~~you~~ me how
your dear Boy goes on. Papa's account of
him today was not satisfactory. My wet nursing
prosper, and dear Baby thrives upon it nicely.
I tried for a week, but it was quite useless,
and among so many blessings, I must not repine
at one drawback. Sir Charles Clarke has just been
paying me a kind visit, and ~~has laid~~ ^{offered to lay} me a bet
of 2/6 that I shall have a Boy this time
twelvemonth. I should not be sorry if he were
to win his wager though he is rather sharp upon me. John
desires me to add he will see about your harness directly. I am
so glad to hear in your note to him, the account of your dealing
{?darling}
God bless you both or rather all, dear ones. Love to dear Kate.
Ever my beloved Wathen, your affec[tiona]te Anna.

[address]

Wathen Waller Esq[ui]^{re}
Secretary of Legation
Brussels

Transcribed by: Gwyneth Castor	Date : 20 May 2008
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