

Undated 1844 (?)

Clara Macirone to her parents George and Mary Ann Macirone

Dear Papa and Mamma,

Am I not very fortunate and ought we not to be very happy? I am sure you will be when you find how well everything has gone on and how much good news I have to tell you. First the evening at Tryon House went off splendidly. All my children played beautifully and did themselves and their mistress credit. There were many people of consequence there and they seemed so much pleased that I believe I shall gain much reputation by the affair. I played too and that my best and they were an enthusiastic audience. So far so very good, and the better since Tryon House has cost me much anxiety lately. And though I tell myself continually that anxiety is virtually want of faith, yet it is so very possible that Heaven might think it best for me to suffer and I have so little courage for it that my fears were little affected by the new light in which I put them.

You were, you said prepared for the disappointment of my engagement at Hertford. Did you expect me to get another and through Mr. Hamilton too, who is as kind as if he were a father and brother combined or rolled into one. I was very hastily sent for by him at the R.A. today and in five minutes I found myself in his handsome room with him and another gentleman, engaged not "as the lady said" to go down the very earliest day I can leave town to a large house at Dover, and so I go all danger...[?] and am to meet Mr. Minet there at 6 o'clock Thursday next. So next Sunday will be my last day for some weeks. I should perhaps be able to come to you next week. If it were possible, it would be very pleasant to go to church in the afternoon together as Heaven knows whether I shall have a sermon worth listening to down there. My salary will be 5 guineas a week but en revanche I have a very great deal to do. Particulars I must tell you when we meet.

Minnie is going to learn dancing and walking and deportment of Mr. Moson who instructs the Queen and all the Royal family and is the first now beyond dispute – for very little.

Your affectionate daughter Clara

Should you mind Lieschen coming on Sunday evening?

1 January 1844 Bath

Mrs. DuBois in Bath to Mary Ann Macirone

My dear Friend,

This is the commencement of a new year and in order to make it particularly pleasurable to myself, I address a few lines to you and your dear daughters to wish you many happy returns of the day with pleasures and blessings of all denominations.

I thank God your dear son is well and happy, having been the promoter of his present position by my advice and have seen many instances of the excellence of the Institution and its pupils have generally attained fortune and always honour which is saying multum in parvo. You have had many many sources of trial but your good talented children will repay you your care and love and your husband will I think derive equal pleasure with yourself in seeing them succeed in their chosen path, - Sisters of Art and Sisters in soul and feeling which will lend them faith in Heaven under all its Vicissitudes. I shall hope one of the high days to see them both here and that they will enjoy together the lovely scenery of Clifton and Bath, doubly enjoyed taken together, though I cannot fix the exact time at this moment scarcely knowing what their movements may permit or my own. So much do I fear making long engagements which must be liable to change and consequently to disappointment.

I have been reading a work which would please you much, it is "Home" and "The Neighbours" by Mary Hewitt. Try to procure them. Clara would delight in the latter as much as I know she does in the former.

My Louisa is staying at Islington with her kind friends the Bowerbanks. Mrs. B is better but never strong and Louisa is like one of her own family so I don't expect her return until the Spring. Amelia, Ann and Esther are at home quite well and preparing for Lisa Miller here next week which we had all wished to be graced with the presence of your dear girls. I have invited Kitty Loder and hope she will come and talk to me of Clara. All my friends have enquired whether the 'young lady' will be here, meaning herself, and when I say 'No' I see a very long face, spite of their politeness to conceal their thoughts.

Do you not fear of returning to London, would it not be better to remain in the Country some time longer until your husband is quite restored to health and where you can see your little pet frequently at Hertford? Of course not knowing all circumstances I cannot offer advice but I dread London with the

fogs and associations. Thank God I am much better than I have been for years and enjoy my increased strength with much thanksgiving and a grateful heart. I may visit London but I don't know when. Travelling costs much and having a pupil who has no friends to spend even a day with, being an orphan, I do not think it right to leave my post for even a short time.

My friends the Newells are still in great distress of mind, Mr. N continuing to live in the precincts of the grave. I am glad Clara has written to him. It will cheer an hour over his sick couch, the voice of friendship is ever welcome.

And now adieu my dear friends. May God bless you and grant you health and happiness is the constant prayer of yours affectionately

E DuBois

To be continued ...