

the commencement of a medical centre
for women, with more promise than any
we have yet seen - here Emily & I will live
and superintend the growth of the work &
carry on our own practice. As to students
we have two young ladies who will spend
the coming year with us - one of them has
already been a year in the Infirmary, having
previously graduated in Philadelphia - she
will act as assistant physician & be so
printed in next year's reports (Dr. Hughes) -
A daughter of Putnam's publisher - will com-
mence a four years course in November -
a very talented girl, only 17 however - there
is also another young lady, graduate of Antioch
College who will begin in the Autumn - so I
hope we shall have a really promising
little class. I do not know yet exactly
how we shall mould this institution - one
cannot tell before hand - but we are on the
right track and will gradually find out
the true means to our end. I want to
have three professorships endowed for women
1st Hygiene - 2nd Operative Midwifery & female
surgery - 3rd Agriculture - they should be filled
by those who have been practical physicians -
should have a house & handsome salary & be
connected with the town & country establishment
- but I cannot develop the idea at the far end
of my letter - I have a letter begun to your father
which I hope soon to send - but I am so busy. With best
love to you and you. I am affectionately Elizabeth.

Apr 25. 1869
79 East 15th St

Dearest Barbara

Your letter has just come & meets its
usual hearty welcome - it always brings a
little bit of Algeria with it. The news of
your family is very good - how pretty the
little toddlers are when just beginning to
run; I am so glad Grandpapa has a little
pet! Pray give Bell a little time -
I doubt at all despair of you, much less
of her. My cordial regards to Annie -
how good it is that every one seems hap-
-py. Florence Nightingale's book is
good (you see I am answering the items of
your letter) - Annie is too sensitive about
it, naturally - it has great faults -
it is ill-tempered, dogmatic, exaggera-
ted - it will not at all increase her rep-
utation - and nevertheless the book is
good - it is very suggestive, contains a
great deal of excellent practical sense
and is a very readable book - piquant
quite, and a readable book on nursing
is a valuable thing. Florence can
not write a book in the usual meaning of

the word - she can only throw together a mass of hints and experiences which are useful & interesting, but she is not able to digest them into a book which will remain as a classic. I suspected this years ago, when she gave me her Kaiser's worth pamphlet - I was sure of it when I read her Government reports, so her little nursing book is very welcome to me because I expected nothing higher & am very glad to have this.

Dear Barbara, I am very thankful that I felt my way right, in this *l'acte de cession of life* - sorry as I am not to live in England - I am more than ever convinced that I could not have worked there under the conditions that I must have accepted, and Emily would have been still more impatient. - The visit was very good & has made the little mean gossip will die away, I am not at all afraid of that; and some years hence when I am able to return and make my own conditions, it will be of immense service that I spent a year in England. But I cannot tell you how the hints of gossip & malice & worse that often creep out of your letters and the hints that come from other sources, make me rejoice that I am working here - here, where I have no wish to enter society and do not care for the people sufficiently to mind ill-nature.

May 9th

I had written the above, intending to send

it before moving, but I was delayed, and meanwhile have received two from you the last enclosing two notes to Mrs Dall & Ellen, which are duly forwarded.

Now I write to you from our new abode - 126 Second Avenue, in which we have been just one week. The masons carpenters plumbers painters &c are disturbing every corner of it, so it is & will be for two weeks longer, in the utmost confusion - but I think we shall like it very much, when we have got it in shape. It is a large handsome house, such as we might have found in Russell Square, and the neighborhood may also compare with that square only a little better (fashionable) the owner was a Frenchman, D'Hervey, the son of a well known Paris lawyer, and he has finished it off with much taste - tessellated marble hall, silver pressed papers, fine glass windows &c - we keep the first floor as reception rooms, certainly - the next floor we are throwing into a fine sweep of wards - we are opening the basement to the street for dispensary purposes; and I think that when complete it will be a suitable and substantial