

MEREDITH, (Louisa Ann)

Presented by Mrs. W.V.G. Johnson, 23rd February 1951.

MEREDITH LETTERS 1829 - 1835

Letters of Louisa Ann Twamley, née Meredith, of Edgbaston near Birmingham, U.K., and of her daughter Louisa Ann, to their Meredith relations in Tasmania. Mrs. Twamley's daughter, Louisa Ann, was born on 20th July 1812 near Birmingham. Louisa Ann distinguished herself as an authoress, publishing her first book at the age of twentyone. In 1839 she married her cousin Charles, and shortly afterwards the couple sailed for Tasmania. Here Louisa Meredith continued her literary career and wrote and illustrated many books based on her life in Tasmania, until her death in 1895.

R.S. 33/

1. 1829, Sep. 8

Louisa Ann Twamley to her sister [in-law] Mrs. Meredith, Woodlands, Oyster Bay, Van Diemen's Land.

Mrs. Twamley is glad that her brother's prospects are brightening; thanks sister for her invitation to join them in V.D.L. but feels too old & in too poor health; she gives news of friends and asks after the Meredith children.

2. 1832 May 28

Louisa Ann Twamley to her brother, George Meredith at Hobart, from Birmingham, U.K.

Mrs. Twamley's bad health; death of her companion; marriage of Louisa and Julian- " I wish my poor girl was well married Louisa is so much taken up with her books and poetry - almost too clever to be the companion I sometimes stand in need of."

3. 1833 May 18

Louisa Ann Twamley (later Meredith) to her Uncle, George Meredith, Hobart Town.

Writing from her Uncle John's home in Gloucestershire, U.K., West End House, Miss. Twamley describes the beauty of the place; mentions her 'restless & enquiring spirit' and her need for 'food for the mind'; she is grateful for her uncle's kind intentions but could not think of leaving her parents and her future literary prospects - her forthcoming volume will have wood engravings of her own original drawings, 'something new in the book line'. What would she do in V.D.L., write 'conzonets to Kangaroos, madrigals to *prime merinos' or 'undertake the tuition of her uncle's establishment? She could earn £100 p.a. as governess in Britain without the danger of a journey.

Miss Twamley refers to her mother's paralytic stroke. She is writing while the family is playing cards, she hates cards, 'so irrational a diversion.' Louisa Ann rejoices at Louisa's happy marriage. Refers to the influenza epidemic; their plans for excursions; practicing archery and her other cousins George, Sarah, Sabrina. She discusses political meetings in Birmingham - a 'great admirer of republicanism for a new country but cannot imagine it can agree with John Bull's long established nations.' Thanks for gifts of nautilus and a 'whale's eardrum' from 'dear Charles' and her younger cousins' parrots.

4. N.D. [1833]

Copy of advertisement for 'poems by Louisa Ann Twamley, with original illustrations drawn and etched by the authoress.'

5. 1835 Feb. 16

Louisa Ann Twamley (later Meredith), from Birmingham, U.K., to her Aunt Mrs. Meredith at Belmont, Tasmania.

Has dedicated her book to Mrs. Meredith 'to make it more family property'; and has sent books for her little cousins. She is acting as secretary for her mother and also for Uncle Henry - including the work for the corn inspection. She refers to her dislike of '"society" - unless it is intellectual.'

6. 1835 May 3

Louisa Ann Twamley to her Aunt, Mrs. Meredith at Swanport, Tasmania.

Sending a present of screens ' for your new Drawing Room' and drawings for the young ones.

7. [? 1835] Aug. 2

Letter from child, Maria Meredith, to her brother Henry at Belmont, mentioning that Louisa Twamley had sent drawings.

8. 1834 Oct. 24

Louisa Bromley to Mrs. Meredith.

Written from Murray Street (? Hobart) where she had arrived after unpleasant voyage lasting 8 days.

9 Typed copies of letters.

