

but that affair is now so nearly at  
an end that they would be too late  
for it. I hope to send off the last Miss.  
on Monday or Tuesday at latest.

Hardwick Vicarage, 26 Dec. 1872.

53  
My dearest Arthur,

I write pretend to say that I do  
not feel much disappointed - for I  
have been looking forward to your in-  
sit with so much pleasure for months  
and you never seemed to consider it an  
uncertainty! - Is it an impossibility  
for you to reconsider the point? Life  
is speeding away, & I know not when  
we may meet again - we have no in-  
tention of coming to London in the  
spring. -