

Hardwick vicarage, 4 March '78.

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My dear Mr Arthur

We were so very sorry to miss you - & to have seen so very little of you - we had promised ourselves much pleasant talk ~~when~~ with you when we left this place - but things seemed against it all though - first my stupidly thinking I had written to you about our whereabouts when I had not - & then our own uncertainty in being put off from our dinner at Mr. Lyate's; from one day to another - & then your bad cold which we so much regret - however we hope it is all gone off now - & also that your dear Mother is better for she seemed to me very poorly when I saw her.

I was very sorry to hear from her of your misconduct in sitting up so late - or rather so early. Do let a very old friend beg you to get out of that habit as soon as possible - you do not know what brain-mischief you may be laying the preparation for. It is most meterial, especially at your age - do without food or drink or fire or even as much exercise as you wish - but please don't abide