Hamilton Mar. 14th 1867

My dear Bertha

Your most welcome letter arrived in due time, and I cannot tell you how glad I was to receive it. I had many fears as to the possible effect of so tedious a journey on your little stock of strength, and it was quite a relief to hear that you had borne the last so well.

I can enter fully into all your pleasure at being again at home. Home possesses a peculiar charm, which no other spot, however pleasant, can claim. There the interest of one concerns all, each is bound to the others with strong ties. But I assure you the friends you have left are not few. Many have been the anxious inquiries concerning you which I have had to answer since your departure. It is cruel, Bertha, to carry away so many hearts, but I.

know you to be incorrigible in that respect, so judge it useless for me to say more.

Mary is coming home next week. A letter from her arrived yesterday to that effect. You can imagine how the announcement was received. The younger members of the family have already proposed, discussed and abandoned divers plans for celebrating the event. When you remember how long our sister has been away you will not wonder at such proceedings.

Much love to all from

Your affectionate

Helen

Emma Douse

No. 8.

A woman's education should include as far as possible whatever would strengthen and discipline her mind. No time or energy is wasted that is spent in such studies. They will render her more competent for every duty of life. Then beyond this, whatever will add elegance to her character, whatever will give her power to smooth rough life or make her happier should be cultivated to the utmost possibility.

Emma Doane