

Ponsonby 27 Feb 1882

Dear Lucy.

It was great delight
the welcome box arrived today,
and great was the excitement
at the unpacking thereof, which
was not effected without some
considerable trouble as it was
so very securely nailed up.
Delay was very met but it
sustained no damage in coming
up. We all three went down
to the "Astonabau" to get it

no very pleasant undertaking
as it was blowing from the
N.E. with rain and you know
what that is here but the
weather did not matter much
in the anticipation of the arrival.
- We are all delighted with the
Contents, which we have just
unpacked. The slippers were
really splendid they fitted
very well only just a trifle
large but that for slippers is
hardly a fault as they should
be easy to be comfortable which
they most certainly are and
really handsome. Thank you
very much for them - The

oil painting was first-rate
and will find a place in
our drawing room. The small
water colour one was very
specially admired it is really
quite a little gem, and will
have a frame. Thank dear
Gemma from me very much
for the photo of the house and
also the scent-bottle. The latter
has not yet been opened but
I am sure I shall like it.
It is quite a rarity in this
house as Mother & I are
writing I need not say
anything about the other things
further than that they all

gave universal pleasure
and satisfaction. Fred of
course was characteristically
the least demonstrative of all
but he evidently was much
pleased. poor fellow he probably
now is not at all well
suffering from a very sore
tongue (and mouth) and is
altogether out of sorts. He
is taking Sarsapilla and will
I hope soon be better. I fancy
so much continued exposure
to the hot sun here has had
a bad effect upon him
we are having very different
weather here to what you

are getting from what
Sumner says in his letter.
ours has been very hot
and salty, shaker and I
went out with Tom M.
the other day for a days
fishing and very warm we
found it, and only caught
11 fish - I have now had
holiday - a fortnight - and
is full of boating and fishing.
I never will have told you
all about our picnic -
another one is talked about
to come off tomorrow or
Wednesday, Tom has hired
a boat for a fortnight and

is anxious to make the
most of it - and is delighted
to get some of his friends
on the train for a cruise -

Thank dear Emma very
much for her nice long
letter and tell her I hope
to reply to it by next-mail,
but I fancy it is your turn
this time - I must be nice
to have Walter & Fanny staying
with you but I am afraid
there is rather a cloudy time
of it between you all -
with very much love
Your affectionate Father
J. Miller