1860 August

richest. Can give them no more than we under
children now possess. — Night. Aug 12/1860

At this point I broke off and made my afternoon
calls, and then to dear Israel's for tea. Annie does
keep up wonderfully. The house is desolate. I can
scarce bear myself to go to the door missing the
little feet trotting through the passage, and the
cheerful voice of welcome to what I am so
accustomed. As I often think myself prematurely
a widower, it seems as though she were bereft of
her child. But we both have the hope of soon
meeting the object of our affection even on earth —
How could we endure our bereavement without
and how trifling is it when we think of the
blessing of being still only separated for a
time and compare our light affliction with that
of others. It is no unnatural transition from
this thought to the contrast between those who
sorrow as those who have no hope, over their dead,
and those who know that there is a day coming
when those who sleep in Jesus shall come
with him & we shall ever be together with the
Lord. Such hope is ours for those when we have
lost: dear lambs of Jesus. Carrie & Cornelia and
now our grandchild Chester. I have felt this
evening as though I could give much to lie for
a little while on one of those settees on the
North piazza with my head resting on your lap
and our children gathered around us as we

feel as though it were impossible that Even the
unlimited and free goodness of Jehovah should
bestow such favours as life and peace upon such
an one as I, and my constant prayer is that I may
be made an instrument of mercy to others, and
a monument of mercy unto myself. Our dear children
are all well at present. Dear Isa & Annie have parted
with their darling for a few weeks, but seem hopeful
of it in the consciousness of the advantage to him.
Charles & Hannah are in a subdued state of feeling
suffering, but not groaning over their loss. I dined
with them and the two boys today. Galloway is
better in health, and very much occupied —
He finds business is not always prosperous
but bears his losses with manly firmness. I
hope and think they are teaching him to learn
more upon God & less upon his own understanding.
O, that we may all learn this lesson, and be
governed by the instruction.

I find by your letter, that you are as I apprehended
you were, suffering from drought. It is very great here
also. Night before last and yesterday morning there was
a gentle rain, but the amount which fell was small.
It is now again overcast with the wind from N.E. I do
hope you have had some share of the blessing
Parched fields present a painful spectacle, and
I always think of the suffering cattle when the
springs are in the state you mention. God knows
when to give and when to withhold, and it is our duty to
submit, and our privilege to trust in His mercy