

Sunday. Feb: 25th 1858.

Dear Geoffrey & Susan. Thank you for your letters & the two photos - the threshing gang one has the faces clear except Mr. Kirkbridge - the dog looks thinner than when I saw him last.

Amaret will be very helpful now she can wash up all alone. Barbara will be wanting to do the same. I was surprised to hear that the Coopers may be going out to Canada soon. I don't know if dear has told you that she expects another little son or a daughter in Sept^r. if all goes well. She advertised a week ago for a brother's help & had several replies - she engaged one last & she is to come tomorrow. Briare wrote you for some money, but I told him you could not possibly get money out of his account - he has a great idea of buying a motor cycle - three out of his department have been dis-charged - but it will be some time yet I think before he will be. We saw the Superintendent who did not seem to think there was much change - but everyone else sees a big improvement & he has been allowed to see a picture show in the big hall here (in the same building).

This morning after Church I went to the Schools
School to have a gas mask fitted on. it is the
day for this district, rail mask is given in 2
small cardboard box. it did not take more than
a minute or two to fit it. Children over 4 also
have them, under 4 at present there is no protec-
tion but I think something is being devised. We
hope these will not be needed. I had dinner
at Peers & then took Geoffrey out for a little
while. it is now very nice out, tho' there is
sunshine the wind is cold. We have some
rain every day (mostly at night) & the ditches
are full to overflowing. They are going to
pull down the toll-bar cottage on the
B'head road & widelee see road there
as it is a dangerous corner - there are still
so many road accidents. Jack is much
better & having ordinary food again.
Norman went to the Industries Fair in
London this week. Aunties have had their
bathrooms painted & enamelled white &
are very pleased with the result.
Is Bill West coming back to you for the
season again? Thank you for letting me

Know what Barbara would like for her
birthday. I have got Fannie Puddleduck
for her. I am sure Bob would be very glad
to have your help. Bessy now that Elsie
is away. I wonder how Edie is & if Elsie
will be away long. I know she will be back
as soon as over the case. Auntie Edie
is better again, we think she had flu' a
little time ago. She did not have the
Doctor. Is your old Doctor still practicing?
it must be hard for him in extremes of
temperature. I should think you could do
with some of the German few Doctors, they
are said to be very clever. - we have allow-
ed a certain number to come to England.
Margareh & Jack have not got their Refu-
-ges yet, tho' it is quite a long time since
they applied for these - Dr. Leigh is better
& Dr. Munnerley too. Aunties' new couch
has come, it is on a new design  springs run
horizontally across the back  the seat &
the arms, they do not collect any dust &
then there are 2 sprung cushions for the back

two sprung cushions for the seat & 2 cushion
for the ends. either end will let down so that
you can lie down full length. It is very comfort-
able. They gave the great big old couch to the Uni-
-versities for the use of their men. I hope
your Father & Mother are keeping well Susan
& that the girls are too. Mr & Mrs Drills are
not very well, they like to see Harold but now
they have gone so far away he cannot go as
often as if they were near. We rather wondered
they did not come to West Kirby or Hoylake but
Louthport is a great place for retired ministers
& there are interesting lectures etc: the shops
are very good & the roads are level. it takes about
3 to 45 minutes to get here from Liverpool - some of
the trains are fast & some slow stopping at all
the intervening stations. The baby in the
enclosed picture is very like Geoffrey &
Barbara were about same age. Barbara is
dark with blue eyes - little Geoffrey too has
blue eyes. With dear love

from your ever loving Brother

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