

## Letter from Florence Carrington to "Folks" (May 2, 1905)

Dear Folks,

Now I have to wait about an hour before the train starts. I will try and put down what I have done and seen in London – it is now after 11PM. Train leaves at 12:20 for Derby – May first. Well I came to London Saturday leaving Derby 8:50AM Sat the 29<sup>th</sup> got to London 12:05 noon and then set out to view the or do the city. First I got a guide which I am sending (keep it for me) and while eating a lunch studied it – so I decided that Kensington Palace after looking around the station (St. Paneras) would be the best place to go and so got on a bus (on top) and we started. It was a splendid ride, took about an hour, the pictures will tell you what I saw there. Of the parlor I can say little, it is so large except for lawns and trees and grass, it is like a common, only 5 times as large as Boston Common – this took until 3 O'clock P.M. and then I did not know what to do, so decided to start for Hampton Court Palace, am afraid I shouldn't have started if I had known it would take so long to go, it is the most splendid road between orchards and fine villas that I could only dream of, after I left the tram car (I rode on top all the way) took more than an hour, came to the court yard, where the soldiers were on guard, to the palace through to the grounds then to the picture gallery, well all I had was a quarter of an hour as they close at six to see the pictures. Such I could never imagine, the old bed chambers of the kings and queen and their dressing rooms, etc. The great hall I didn't see. Then I had to start back on the way to Putney. Twas after 8:00 P.M. when I got to the end of the train route and then had to take the bus to Putney where Aunt used to live near, to stay with Mr. And Mrs. Hedges. Comfortable I found it and I was ready to go to bed but we sat up until near eleven – so – today I decided to go early to Westminster Abbey. The train is moving so I must leave this for awhile.

Wednesday, May 2 at Doncaster, came in last night- to go back to Westminster – went to Westminster for service and stayed for communion. Afterwards went to St. Pauls did not stay long as the service was just the same. It was a long walk from Westminster to St. Pauls through Hyde Park past Buckingham Palace. I have sent cards, some to Lizzie and Jessie and the books to Ada, so you can see in imagination what I saw with my eyes, then I tried to get Putney for evening mission, but was farther than I thought so arrived there as Mr. Hedges was leaving, so as I was very tired and got a cold from walking in the rain decided to stop in the house. Well Monday I began again. About 9:30 A.M. left Putney to find my way to the zoo gardens, and found that when I got to Regents Park found I had to walk for about 2 miles to reach the zoo, then I spent 2 hours seeing the animals, Mrs. Hedges gave me a lunch, then I took the bus for the tower of London. Well for the height you would be disappointed as it is how big and magnificent with all the views, the that was 3 O'clock and I must set off for Brixton where Dr's Torrey and Alexander are now – the meeting was on when I got there as it is a long way from the Tower. I forgot to say I went over Tower Bridge, the subject was Holy Spirit as a person, not an it, but a him. After that I went in the town and had tea at the café. Then was ready for evening meeting which took till 10 O'clock. As my train left at 12:20 decided to take the tram to the elephant, and go by bus over London Bridge, mind you this was 11 P.M. May 1<sup>st</sup> everything while I was in London went like clockwork. I had no difficulty in getting about. I paid 4 shillings for my 2 nights lodging and breakfasts and got the other meals



where ever I was all costs were for fare and all expenditures about 24 shillings – I think I did well.

Got to Derby at 3:35 A.M. and as I told Aunt Martha I should stay in the station till daylight. I went and lay down on the couch in front of the fire in the waiting room, and well Aunt did scold as she said she worried, so I told her it was her own fault as I told her what I should do. I decided if there were no letters for me to start for Chesterfield and get to Bob's at Doncaster the same day as it seems as if I had done all I could for Aunt. So I went off to Pollies to see about my letters, and tell them I was off. So we didn't even shake hands and I did not see Annie, the train left Derby at 11 A.M. for Chesterfield to see Minnie Dalton and spent about 4 hours with her, she is tied down as her Aunt is helpless (except she is not in bed) with Rheumatism and Minnie cannot leave her at all. She came to the station with me and I decided to stop in Sheffield to see the Rev. Ed Carrington who called on me in Derby. It took me an hour to find the house, and I had only an hour to stay, he took me to the church of which he is minister, showed me all through and then took me to the station and I had only 7 minutes to get to the train. I should certainly have lost it had I gone alone. That was 8:15 P.M. and it took an hour to get to Doncaster and half an hour to get to Bob's. I am very glad to be here and not in Derby as my cold is worse and I cough quite bad that comes to the dampness. I feel better already. Ada, Bob's wife is taking such good care of me. She put the hot water bottle in my bed, gave me glycerin to take internally last night and I have had cod liver oil this afternoon. I know that you want to hear something of them. Bob is just the same a little older and Ada is just and good I think. She has told me that Bob has known nothing of the letters which his mother wrote after Bob's return, until just as I was coming here, and the subject came up and she told him, it seems that Ada met Mrs. Shelley at her gate, she was so excited and was posting them herself so they would be sure to go. They are a fine set of mischief makers and they made the opposites suffer.

They, Bob and Ada have 2 children, a boy, 7, he is bonny and bright and the baby, 4 months, as pretty as she can be. They have the finest children and the best home. I have been disappointed in all so far hope this will last.

Uncle John is still ill and we think he will never do another day's work. In some senses it is the best thing and serves him right he has made no provision for his family, has lived in a house too big for his pockets and of course everything is wrong with them. Bertha is a nice girl and means right but without faith she is lost. We have all to learn from experience, though he is a hard task master. I had to stop for tea as Bob is home from work and we are looking at the pictures. I haven't left either of them for Annie as she didn't seem to care much for anything and has taken no notice of me. I think I should give the whole glomp to Bob, as he will know them. If I do that I am afraid there will be a fuss although they have nothing to do with one another, and he is so very sensitive. They have according to report treated him like a brute as somebody told me Annie is a brute and Polly a fiend that is hard language and from what I have seen it is true so think unless you decide different keep both pictures.

Hope there are letters for me at Halifax shall write after I get to Bradford for them.

I shall try when I get there to find the Knotts at Shipley or Saltaire as Aunt says one of those people ought to find them. Think I will close now this is long enough and you'll have a time reading it. Get it around as soon as possible and keep the cards clean and intact. Be sure to send some letters to Halifax.

Lovingly,

Florence

Doncaster

May 2, 1905