

Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton'

23rd December, 1827

My Dear George and Margaret,

A person of the name of Smith, who is going to New South Wales, a relation of the Barneses, of this Parish, having been so kind as to offer to take charge of anything we have to send to you, I avail myself of so excellent an opportunity to send you the chants I promised. I found them soon after you left us. I have likewise copied a waltz that has lately been given us, composed by Weber. It is a favourite at Dinton, and I think you will like it. Charlotte wrote you a long letter, immediately after receiving yours from the Cape De Verde Islands, since which nothing of any consequence has happened. We are now, as you will imagine, assembling for Christmas. The junior part of the family are all here; Tishey, Mr. Codrington, and the two little boys join our party to-morrow. We are in hopes that the Knatchbulls would have come, but Louisa thinks it too great an undertaking to take so long a journey with two such little creatures at this season of the year. They are quite well, and little Lou is very proud to be able to walk alone; William has promised to eat his Christmas dinner here, but, as he hunts the following day about 30 miles off, I fear we shall only get a peep at him, unless a very hard frost was to set in.

We all wish you could be here likewise; you will not be forgotten, and we shall drink your health after dinner. We now flatter ourselves that you are safely landed and beginning to recover from the effects of such a long voyage.* Papa has got Cunningham's book on New South Wales, and desires me to tell you, with his kind love, that he is busily engaged in studying it.

Your affectionate sister,

Mary Ann Wyndham

**They landed in Sydney on 26/12/1827, three days after this letter was written.*