

Adda a Procter

5757-

Rare

Ministering Angels.

Angels of 'light.' bow your bright wings to earth

In the still morn

Nor in the starry eve, nor deep midnight

Leave me forlorn!

From each palee spirit, & unholy power

Guard my weak heart,

Circle around me in each perilous hour

Nor e'er depart!

From all ungentle thoughts and bad intents

Keep me secure,

Teach me hope, patience, and (whate'er befall)

Still to endure!

Nor lonely in the paths of this bad world

Let my feet stray,

Guide & sustain me with your angel hands

In my dark way.

Leave me not lone to struggle with the world

Whilst here I roam.

And at the end, with your bright wings on.

Oh! take me home!

Adda

14<sup>th</sup> March. 1874.

32 Regent St  
Portland Place. W.

Sir

My husband (W Procter) is not able to reply to your application in behalf of Miss Poe - His great age & bad severe illness do not allow him to answer any letters..

I should have thought, that in America enough money might have been collected, without applying to England.

I am Sir

Yr Obedt. Servant  
Wm. B. Procter

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COLLECTION 18 LETTERS BY A.B. PROCTER. (Wife of Barry Cornwall and  
mother of Adelaide Procter)

1. 14th March 1874. 32 Weymouth St. Portland Place W.

"Sir,

cut My husband (Mr. Procter) is not able to reply to your application on behalf of Miss Poe. His great age 86, and severe illness do not allow him to answer any letters.

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I am Sir,

Yr obt Servant.

Anne B. Procter.

2. June 19th 1876 Queen Annes Mansion S.W.

"My dear Mrs. Major.

cut Owing to my having quitted the old home in Weymouth St. I have only this moment received your kind invitation. We should have liked to go to your extremely, but we are already engaged to a Strawberry Party. It is very couragous of people to contemplate either Hay or Strawberries such weather as we now have. We are settled here now for good in a flat, the 5th floor, overlooking Westminster Abbey & the House of Parliament.

If you are ever near us on a Tuesday between 4 & y you will find tea and a warm welcome from

Yr affect. old friend

Anne B. Procter.

3. July 1878 (? 1870) 17 Boulevard de la Madeleine, Paris.

cut "My dear Mrs Skirrow,

I have not forgotten your desire to h ear a little about Paris as it now is -

The Parisians are really making, not hay, but money while the Exposition is open - and are I think overdoing their desire to squeeze us strangers.

A friend of mine arrived on Sunday proposing to remain here ten day, or a fortnight. He always goes to the Lenore and pays seven francs for his bed, finding that he had to pay fourteen for the very same room, he went off on Wednesday.

I do not think you and Mr. Skerrow would find an Apartment comfortable. The servants are the difficulty. Here I have an Apartment lent me, a woman comes Mornings & Evenings, to arrange my rooms, but my dinner I am obliged to either go out, and eat at a Restaurent or have it sent in,..Your own Servants would be useless and to hir servants for a short time very difficult. As friends of mine here Made de Mussy tells me she dare not complain of her servants now for they would depart at once to the Exposition, where they give high wages.

There is an immense new Hotel The Continental opened, but I have been to see it, and it smells terrible of damp plaister & paint.

I am very disappointed by the Exposition. It is too large and looks bare - and there are too many useful articles shewn, Candles, Sauces- Boots Garters &c. I see few persons there. Paris, is gone to their country houses, german baths &c. and the American abounds, his straw hat - his brown lean jaw and his Note book meet you every

3 (Contd)

where and parties of Cooks.

The heat is very great indeed to go out before 5 impossible. They close the Exposition at 6! and at all the Hotels if you dine Table d'hote 6 is the hour. The only thing that remains as it was are the Cabs. 1 franc 50 the course & 5 sous the driver. An Ice (water) is 1 franc 2 pence ½. I know to you & Mr. Skerrow money is no object, but the question is cannot one spend one's money better!

A friend of mine Miss Hampden has been staying at the Chatham. Rue neuve St. Augustie, and she found it very quiet & comfortable She paid 6 francs for Table d'hote dinner & 8 if she dined at the Restaurant.

We leave here on 24th for <sup>Will</sup> Switzerland. You ~~would~~ be pleased at Sir Garnet Wolseleys appointment. Cypres sounds very romantic.

With our kindest regards to Mr. Skerrow, believe me gratefully and affecty Yours, Anne B. Procter.

I am afraid you will think me a Miser - I cannot write so well without copy - set by Mr. Sala.

4. Oct. 25th 1881. Foxholes Christchurch Hants.

*cut*  
My dear Mrs. Skirrow, I have received a Box containing some excellent Wedding Cake - and you must be the donor! Not that I think that you are remarried, but that your son is, and that with your usual kindness you wished us to share in the good Cake that graced the Wedding.

There is justice in our having Cake for the two Weddings we attended in June & July, we only looked at the Cake, and never tasted it!

We have been in Scotland during Agust-Sept in Yorkshire - and are now here paying a short visit until Sat. 29th when we go home.

I heard of you from Mr. Atkinson - Have you joined any of Browning Societies? They exist all over the World. I hear he is still in Venice.

The George Smiths are yachting. This is not sailing weather I think.

I shall hope to find a Card or Note from you telling me that you and Mr. Skerrow are well.

Edythe & I paid a short visit to Mr. Ayrton at Saltburn on the Sea. Mr. & Mrs. Deper (?) had been there. Ayrton was an old pupil of my husbands.

Yr Affect & grateful old friend  
Anne B. Procter.

*cut* 5. July 31st 1882 2 Pilmure Place, St. Andrews.

My dear Mr. Macmillan,

I shall not be able to thank you as I should like for your kind thought in sending me a book that has given me such extreme pleasure.

I received it yesterday (Sunday) and have read it with great interest & delight.

I take it for granted you are the Frederick born 1851 . spoken of in page 193.

What a good wise man. His account of his Mother is

charming - and how I admire the Letter written to his brother Malcolm. page 16.

I have begun to read out to my daughter the book and so I shall taste his remarks better - when a book is well written I enjoy it more reading it out. I shall like Mr. Maurice better than I ever did. I knew him slightly - and never cared to see more of him - I learn that I was wrong.

Kinglsey - I shall re-read. We have a good Library here - and your father has given me a fresh interest in his writings.

If you are good enough to write to me, do tell me if your Mother still lives. . and your Sister?

I bitterly lament that I never knew your father..one must have been some times in the same room. How excellent his account of Savage Landor.

I think I saw your brother Malcolm one day at your home and your sister Katherine?

Yours very gratefully with love to your Wife  
Anne B. Procter.

6. Your letter arrived this morning

2 Pilmuir Place,  
St. Andrews N.B.  
Sunday Aug. 27th 82.

My dear Mrs. Skirrow,

How kind it was of you to write to me, you who are in that lively place Homburg. I was there, some years ago. and I only wish we had gone there this year. What nice walks & talks we should have had! There is something melancholy in hearing of the dinner you & the George Smiths are going to have together.

I console myself with thinking, that we shall all be in London again.

We came here on the 26th July - and on the 6th Sepr we leave Dunnichen near Forfar, a place that belongs to a dear friend of mine Sir Theophilus Metcalfe and is now Let to Mrs. F. Lehmann. I say Mrs. because the husband is at Homburg and I begin to fear will not return until my visit is over. Lord Houghton is also expected and Mrs. F. Lehmann wishes me to assist in amusing him.

We like this dreary old Town very well. It suits us admirably - we have a fine sea good Sands and the Links ten miles round are excellent for walking - a good clean cheap Lodging, three pounds a week and fruit & vegetables in profusion. 6 pence buxys as many strawberries as will please four people and two pence cream. - The people here have been very polite and have all called upon us - but my dear Mrs. Skirrow they dont care for me, nor I for them..All their interests are local - sometimes they make a small effort to suit me, as they term it. It is equally melancholy.

We have dinners here - and five o'clock teas and golf talk always. I am cheered at times by seeing a fat old Man in a Scarlet

6. Coat, (the Golf Club livery) and he reminds me of hunting - the hounds and the meet.

Whyte Melville lives here the father of the Novelist you may remember his books, he was killed in hunting.

You may have seen the death of a Miss Wade in the paper. She was on a visit at Mrs. Cholmondelay's where Browning is. She went out to Sketch, fell & was never able to explain how the accident happened. Let's hope Browning won't write a poem about it.

I hope you go over to Frankfort and buy some Glass there. It is beautiful.. and look at the three printers. Do you know that my name was Sheffer. I have the arms born by that remarkable apprentice. My grandfather altered his name to Skepper as more English making the h a k.

Pray give my love to Mr. Skirrow and accept the same from  
Your old friend

Anne B. Procter T.O.

We go to London on the 29th Sep. 44 Hans Place, a good friend has lent me her House & servants whilst I settle myself in Albert Hall Mansion, Kensington Gore. The weather is perfect. We take long walks two hours and a half, and are able to sit & work & read out of doors.

7. 19 Albert Hall Mansion, Kensington Gore S.W.  
April w3rd 1883.

*cat*

My dear Mrs. Whitbread,

I am so glad to have your Letter. It was the day before its arrival that I saw Lady James whom I was asking about you. I think it was so wise leaving the old home, and beginning a New, altho' a sad life.

I am sure having Mrs. Nesbett & her daughter with you will be a comfort for they know well all you have lost.

I am not pleased with Lord Hatherley's life (?) Every one agrees with me that it is badly done. It does no justice either to his legal or private character.

Even I could have given him some charming & interesting anecdotes about his Uncle.

Yr affect old friend

x  
82

Anne B. Procter

5.

8.

Post Office Braemar,  
Aberdeenshire N.B.  
Oct. 5th 1884.

My dear!

*cut*  
I want to hear that you are quite strong and well - coming home to be prudent and take great care of yourself for your husbands sake - to spare him weary days and anxious nights. This is to be a good Wife.

I am here away from all mutual friends for if I could hear tidings of your health I should not trouble you with a Letter - at this time of year all souls are away. Mr. James I hear from twice, he merely says you find it hot! - Mrs. Hill is away making holiday and where..?

We have not been very thriving. We left London the last week in July spent a fortnight with Lady Colville at Inverdrue. Edythe who was not well when we left home became worse, so we went into Edinburgh and remained there a whole Month under Dr. Keith's care. He then advise our coming here..This place has really cured Edythe. She looks & feels perfectly well and yet we have only been here three weeks.

We remain here so long as the weather will allow us to do so. At present it is perfect. We are able to sit out of doors on the Heather. In fact Edythe lives out. She only comes home to eat & sleep.

This Braemar is a small simple village. We all go out basket in hand and bring home Baker, Eggs. Bread &c. We are eighteen miles off a Railway and that is one reason why we are so charming.

I can give no news. Browning is going to bring out another book. I learnt this from the Newspaper.

We were so thankful for the Illustrated. It followed us here.

I send you my love and make some pretty speech for me to Mr. Macmillan. If I were writing to him I should not need your intervention.

The Boughtons were here for ten days. We met every day & sometimes twice a day. We liked them both. They are always the same and do not blow hot & cold.

Mr. Sportali has list his sister not Mrs. Stillman.

Yr affect old friend

Anne Benson Procter.

9.

32 Weymouth St. Portland Place W.  
Oct. 11th 1884.

*cut*  
My dear kind friend,

I want to thank you for your Letter for the true estimate you have of my good husband. I have no where seen such justice done him. It wanted your keen appreciation to understand one who who did himself so little justice.

Your letter was like a gleam of sunlight. I had been tailing(?) through fifteen & twenty Letters a day when yours came.

I have made a Copy of the Letter for my Children, the original I shall never part with.

On Friday we took my dear one to Finchley and laid him in a

9. Quiet beautiful place, when he was a little boy he used to stay there with some kind old relations - he loved the place and whilst we were at Highgate was continually drawn there in a Chair. His old Friend & brother Commissioner Welkes (?) - Sir P. Pauncefote Bryans old pupil Phelps & my Son were the Mourners. Montagu was only able to come here on the Thursday so I had all the arrangements to make. This however I am used to. Edith & I went to Finchley & chose the ground. The friend I asked this service of said he was afraid to undertake it.

When I came home from Bournemouth I saw at once a great change. Bryan lifted his right hand with his left to show me what had happened. He fell asleep on Friday and until Sunday at 4 in the Afternoon never opened his Eyes (we fed him with Milk & Wine) He then gave one sigh & died.

Every one has been very kind. the Lehmans above all anxious to serve us. We have passed thro' a terrible week, one day 45 people called & sent -. Browning is in France. I send you, dear friends the Atheneum when you have read it, be kind enough to return it to me.

Yours very gratefully

Anne B. Procter.

You would see in the Daily News a well meant vulgar article by Miss Martineau. My love to Lady James.

10. Jan. 1st. 1886. Shepborne Grange, Tonbridge.

My dear Mrs. Macmillan,

I am here and away from my book where your address is.

I should like to hear from you, that you are well and like Brighton.

I like the place greatly. It is so gay so bright.

I heard of you from Mr. James, who told me of your pretty House, and pleasant dinner.

We, for I have my Grand-daughter with me, were after paying some visits for ~~six~~ weeks at Freshwater, we came to London the first week in Oct. where we have been until 24th when we came her to visit Mr. & Mrs. Thomson Hankey. It was very kind of them to ask us for Christmas & New Years day.

We have had Mr. Gibbs here, once Tutor to the Prince of Wales, He is very agreeable.

The only new I have is that I have a Letter from Mr. Lowell. That has made me very happy, for he confirms the report that he will be here in Feby.

I have made the acquaintance of Mr. & Mrs. Phelps. They have both been to see me. You know what a strong attraction all Americans have for me. Except those who are hot one day & cold the next. They however, find me, when once I know this, fixed Cold.

When will you come home. London has been very pleasant, so many small dinners.

My kindest regards to your husband. He does not forget me - the first of every months shews me that. Your affectionate old friend. Anne B. Procter. I go home tomorrow 2nd Jan.

7.

11. 19 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore S.W.  
February 2nd 1887.

*cat*

My dear Mr. Synge,

The drawings are really beautiful, I look at them again & again.

It is very kind of you to send me them.

I do not think I should spread the Carlyle letters so well, selling as well as giving. When you want any more they are to be had for the asking.

I shall hope soon to see the "Silly book" as you term it advertized. I have full faith in the Letter Press.

Yours my dear Mr. Synge  
very gratefully,  
Anne B. Procter.

12.

19. Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore S.W.  
Feb. 7th 1887

My dear Mr. Synge,

*cat*  
I hope you are well again. I have never thanked you for those lovely illustrations. The more I look at them, the more beautiful I find them. I shewed them yesterday Sunday (when I always have a great gathering) to my friends, and they all were enchanted with them. Who is A.H.?

I hope the book will soon appear. I sent you two copies of the Carlyle Letters, one to give away. I did really send you a copy before, I have a List of those I gave away, and

"Lo Ben Adhums name led all the rest" - No doubt it was taken for a booksellers Catalogue or Radway prospectus. Shares in the "Nexo extended" or The Moca express-

I am dear Mr. Synge  
Yours very truly,  
Anne B. Procter.

13. 19 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore S.W.  
April 10th 1887.

~~My dear Mr. Macmillan,~~

I have just read with great admiration and gratitude Mr. Saintsbury's paper upon my dear old friend William Hazlitt. I use the word friend, in spite of the mental difference between us, because I admired him all my life - I first saw him in 1812.

I believe his happiest hours were spent under our roof where he was highly valued. My Mother, admired him, and being well read in all the books that Hazlitt care for he found a listener & adviser - He came to 25 Bedford Square, my step-father (Basil Montague) when he liked. We made excursions to Box hill, Hatfield, &c. and took Hazlitt with us, going away on Saturday & returning home on Monday. I once saw the first Mrs. Hazlitt a

8.

13. plain woman in a dirty flannel dressing Gown. Hazlitt was extremely clean, and had most beautiful hands. I sat to him for a picture he tried to paint Cupid & Psyche.

As to the Life, the Grandson wrote, it is not worth of thought, Hazlitt's son was only a boy when his father died.

It would have been a great delight to my husband to have read Mr. Saintsbury's Notice, of one whom he felt keenly, justice had never been done. He has left a notice of hi, which was printed in his life.

In Hazlitt's Essay on the want of Money (?) there is a charming passage alluding to his visits to Box hill with us.

Forgive all this, I love to think & speak of these old days.

Yours very truly & gratefully,  
Anne B. Procter.

With original envelope.

14.

The following may be out of sequence as they have "no year"

Decr 18th. Queen Anne's Mansion S.W.

My dear Mrs. Skirrow,

We only came home last Mondyay from our visit to Hertfordshire and you will easily understand that the wet days have kept me at home.

Tuesday next the 20th we go to Bright to spend Christmas with an old friend who promises me a Ball and an Evening party. Some years ago there was an Article in the Spectator

Frisky Matrons

There will be another.

Frisky old Women.

I hope you & Mr. Skirrow will have a good holiday. Were I you Home and such a Home would be my choice for a Holiday.

We are looking out for a Flat. This place has become intolerable.

All good be with you and Mr. Skirrow.

Your affect old friend.

Anne B. Procter.

~~Dec~~

15. Queen Anne's Mansion S.W. June 21st.

My dear Mrs. Frith,

I shall wait upon you & Mr. Frith with great pleausre on 3d of July.

Any Tuesday you are near me, it will be a great pleasure to take you by the hand.

Yrs. Anne B. Procter.

16. Feb. 15th Queen Anne's Mansion S.W.

My dear Mr. Macmillan,

I shall wait upon you with great pleasure on the 3d of March.

Yrs very truly

Anne B. Procter.

9.

17. 19 A.H.Mansion, Kensington Gore S.W.  
Wednesday.

*Cost* My dear Mrs. Macmillan,

Thank you for your invitation to dinner on the 8th April. We shall go to you with great pleasure.

Thank you for the English Illustrated, and for much more too numerous for this small note to hold a List of.

Yours Anne Benson Procter.

18. 19 Albert Hall Mansion, Kensington Gore S.W.  
Easter Sunday.

My dear Mrs. Skirrow,

I know how sorry you & Mr. Skirrow will be for me -

The dear one left me without any suffering - She died in a moment, the heart being affected.

She will be buried in St. Marys Catholic burying ground on Wednesday next - leaving here at  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Eleven.

She died at Wimbledon - we came here yesterday.

Mr. Browning has just left me.

(one corner of paper torn, 3 half sentences missing)

(continues) , feeling note was like you.

My friends have been most kind they watch me & care for me.

At present I have so much to do so much to arrange - that I hardly know what I feel.

Yrs affect.

Anne B. Procter.

19. A.S.S. 32 Weymouth St., Cavendish Place, W.  
Nov. 13, 1874. to Lady James.