

Letter from Laetitia Halkett to Elizabeth Halkett
Chelsea
14 April 1860

Dear Elizabeth

I hope you will not mind if I speak plainly, but as you are well aware Emily has made her *début* and passed a full Season in London without a single proposal of marriage. To be present at another Season immediately would give entirely the wrong impression. Some young ladies are foolish enough to attend three Seasons in a row, with their chances of finding a husband diminishing with each one.

Might I suggest that you take Emily to Paris this summer, or to Italy to admire the landscape and ancient ruins? Travel abroad will expand her knowledge of the world and you will find very elegant people make a Tour of the Continent at this time of year.

I love Emily like a daughter and she is always welcome at my town house in London to stay for as long as she likes. But you must be aware that she is no longer a *débutante*.

You are welcome to stay too, of course.

With affection

Laetitia