

since our Brighton trip - he is off
to Norfolk this Whitsuntide, for another
change - I am going to make another
effort in the dramatic line - some
friends of ours are getting up private
theatricals, and Mr Thorpe & I are
enlisted amongst their "dramatic persons".
Our first piece is the "Face of the
"Illustrious Stranger" - my character
is that of "Fatima" - an oriental
damsel - in Eastern costume - all
spangles and bangles and glitter
and gauze - My paper warns me
that I have written enough so I
must now wind up - please to
remember me very kindly to Miss
Strickland and now - most mighty
Consul - I must bid you adieu -
wishing you all health and happiness
in your new post, and hoping soon
to receive your carte-de-visite in
full canonicals - no that wout do - full
Consular robes - we'll say

I remain, with kind
regards,
Yours very sincerely
Alice H Lemon

10 Orington Square
May 29th 1865

My dear Mr Burritt -

I return you many thanks
for your long letter of the 16th
Inst. - at last I find time to
answer it, having, for a wonder,
a free and unengaged afternoon.
I am glad to hear that you are
getting reconciled to your new
life, although I can well understand
your regret of London - dear
old London just now too is at
its height of amusement & enjoyment
- the Parks are quite a sight -
the Gardens crowded with fashionable
and unfashionables - concert
rooms full - the Operas
thronged - Flower-shows here -
Bazaars there - Balls and dinner
parties everywhere - - Oh London
for me! beyond all places in
the world - But you are

wrong in thinking that my head
is filled and my time occupied
with nothing else but gaiety and
frivolity — you forget that I
have all the cares of a household
on my shoulders — mighty accounts
to keep — servants to order —
linen to mend & make — and Papa
to see after — I lead no idle life
I can assure you! We spent a delightful
day at the Academy last Thursday —
but I consider it on the whole a
very second-rate exhibition this year
— there are very few gems — and
I have not the slightest wish to pay
a second visit — there are some
grand landscapes of Linnell's, and
a few choice little interiors and
cottage scenes — but the picture
which pleased me most of all is
(as usual), Landseer's — called "The
Connoisseurs" — an artist taking a sketch
and two dear beautiful big Doggies
looking over his shoulder, watching
him with the most comical interest
— another little tiny picture delighted
me very much by its truthful
simplicity and pathos — it is called

"Cantari" and represents a little
dead canary bird on a velvet cushion
with a sprig of forget-me-not laid
beside it — of course there are
many many others I could tell you
about, if you had seen them, but
as you have not done so it would
be useless — I will send you my
marked catalogue if you like, to see
all there are — You amused me
— by asking my opinion of poor
President Lincoln and then threat-
ening to put me in the "Bond"
— why if anything would shut
my mouth — and stop my pen
that would! — besides my sympathies
are so entirely with the South, that
I could not tell you, a Northerner,
one half of what I thought — it was
a barbarous brutal murder — and
a sad and disastrous calamity both
for North and South — what climax
of atrocity will be perpetrated
under the sway of this ruffianly
Tailor Johnson — remains to be proved!
Do you think they will hang Jefferson
Davis? — I am glad to tell
you that Papa's health is much improved