

Nassau N. P.

Bahamas, 18<sup>th</sup> May 1864

My dear Mrs Major

I am exceedingly sorry that I should have so long overlooked your request for my sister Mary's address in England. I am so bad a correspondent, & so entirely give myself up to my office work, that I fear I am often guilty of apparent neglect of my friends, in omitting to answer letters, indeed some have complained of my continued silence. I will lose no further time in replying to your letters, and before I proceed further give you Mary's address which is as follows. Mrs J. Mason, 13 Scarborough Terrace, Gasquay, Devon - England. Poor Mary has been sadly straitened in a pecuniary point of view, owing to her having received no interest money from her West Indian investment for now nearly three years; the worst is that at present we can see no prospect of her being better off for some time to come as the estate in which all her money

is invested is still in Chancery and put up for sale week after week without a single bid, as she is entirely dependent on what she gets from that source for her own and Watson's support, you can well picture to yourself her painful position, with my heavy expenses I have been able to do little to help her, and that has been done by letting Frank board with her during his vacations, instead of sending him to a stranger, thus we have mutually accommodated each other; Charley too has been able to do but little for her, as he has had great expenses, he has therefore had to borrow money and to take in one or two boarders, and this has helped her and enabled her to subsist, with Watson's delicate health she must have suffered much anxiety altogether - we were sorry to hear that poor Rose had suffered so much during the winter, the cold of Nova Scotia must be very trying to a delicate constitution, and if practicable it would be better for her in weak health to remove to a warmer climate during the severe weather, but

of course we cannot always act as we  
would wish; I shall be glad to hear that  
all Thab's labours and hard work have  
been crowned with the highest success  
and hope that ere this she has fully  
accomplished her object by obtaining  
a first class diploma and the charge  
of a school, tell her with my love that  
she has the best wishes of us all for  
her success in life, and may she be  
spared to be a still greater comfort to  
you than she ever yet has been. As re-  
gard's Henry, I only wish it were in my  
power to relieve you of the anxiety &  
expense of his education, I should be  
very glad to do so, but I have too great  
a stake upon my purse strings in my  
own family to think of such a thing,  
and can only hope that he will turn  
his present opportunity to account &  
like a good boy apply himself to his  
studies where he is. I have just started  
Frank, my eldest boy, in life, at an  
expense of £100 for uniform and outfit  
that he passed his examination at Sandhurst  
last December for a purchase com-  
mission in the line, and obtained 3984

marks, which did not bring him high enough to get his commission without purchase, I accordingly sent him back to study for a third term and compete in June next for his non purchase commission, resolving in the mean time to make a sacrifice and lodge £450. to purchase in case of failure, on the condition that Frank would afterwards enter the Commissariat and enable me to recover the money for my family; from this sacrifice, however, I have been spared, for a number of commissions having been offered by the Authorities in the Military Store Department, to the Cadets at Sandhurst who passed last December, Frank, after consulting the College Authorities, & taking the opinion of Wason the Army, accepted one, and was gazetted Dep: Asst Supt: of Stores on the 1<sup>st</sup> ultimo. This gives him the daily pay of 8/9 on which he ought to be able to maintain himself comfortably; in 5 years his pay will be increased to 11/3. Thus without any intervention on my part, and in a way I little expected, he has been provided for

by a kind providence, in a manner which  
 under all the circumstances of the  
 case, is much more satisfactory to me  
 than if he had entered the line, where  
 I must have made him an allowance  
 of £60 a year for some time, unless he  
 entered my department. My next anxiety  
 is Herbert, my second son, and it is  
 my intention (W.V.) to send him to England  
 to be placed at school, he will probably  
 leave this next month under the care  
 of our Rectory, the Revd Mr Swann, & go  
 to Jersey where Janice is at school.  
 Herbert wants to enter the Army, but  
 I hope that will pass off. Janice, my second  
 daughter, now 16 years of age, will, I hope,  
 leave school and join us about the  
 close of the present year, I then have  
 two younger ones still to think of, Tilly,  
 now 6, and Ernest 3 years of age, the latter,  
 his god-mother wants to enter the  
 ministry, but she will have to share the  
 expense of his education in that case,  
 unless something very unforeseen occurs  
 to enable me to bear it all myself.  
 Frank is now 19 years old, just about the  
 age I started in life. -

My poor wife, I am sorry to say, does not gain strength, her naturally energetic nature keeps her up, and enables her to go through much more than many less poorly than she is, would consent, but at times she suffers much pain, and the left leg is much paralyzed, so that, although looking well in face, she is in fact a great invalid, we never expect to see her health return to what it formerly was, and must be thankful to a loving Father that she is no worse, and is able to help herself at all, I do not know what she will do in England when we return. The slight cold of this place during the cool season pinches her, this is, I suppose, from her inability to take active exercise, so that in a cold climate she will be a prisoner in doors during winter. Annie takes her place in the more active household duties, and is an excellent housewife, managing things very economically, she is a capital cake maker and saves us much expense in this line as she makes all cakes &c. when we have friends is t

... besides these duties she helps Mary  
... in sewing for the family, besides Lily  
... and is able to devote a portion of her  
... time to District visiting, one after-  
... noon in the week to teaching the children  
... of the poor, and she is also an active  
... member of Committee of the "Christ  
... Church Ladies' Bencolomb Society" which  
... works for the benefit of the poor. I  
... can truly say she is a good girl and  
... a comfort to us. Now I have told you  
... all about ourselves, and it is for me  
... to apologize for boring you with our  
... family affairs. -

I have been kept in a state of suspense  
... about my future movements, I am now  
... near the top of the list, and ought to  
... be promoted soon in the usual  
... course of things, but looking at second  
... in causes would lead me to say, I trust  
... this works wonders, I know however that  
... all events are ordered by God and for  
... wise and good purposes, therefore, while  
... I use all lawful means to attain my  
... ends, I wish to be passive in His hand  
... and to believe that what He permits  
... is the best, and to prefer it so. -

We have had a comparatively warm winter at Assam, the weather however is now much cooler. We can now have a right to expect at this season pleasant and refreshing breezes are blowing every day, so that although the sun is gaining great power we do not feel the heat. The strangers are now all gone and the Royal Victoria Hotel will be closed for the summer on the 1<sup>st</sup> Proximo, the place is very healthy.

I must now close with kindest love to you and the young folks with you, in which I am joined by many and all mine. I hope soon to hear from you again and to learn that the late has been quite successful. God bless you all

Yours most sincerely  
R. H. Major



