



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Elizabeth Blackwell Letters 4079307

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	5
Arrangement	6
Administrative Information	6
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	8
Collection Inventory	8
Series I: Typed Contents List	8
Series II: Letter from Bessie Parkes to Barbara Leigh Smith	8
Series III: Letter from Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 1855-1884	9

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Blackwell, Elizabeth, 1821-1910
Title:	Elizabeth Blackwell Letters
ID:	4079307
ID:	MS#0124
Date [inclusive]:	1850-1884
Physical Description:	0.42 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A true pioneer in the area of women's rights, Elizabeth Blackwell was the first female physician in the United States. This collection primarily consists of her letters to close, personal friend Barbara Leigh Smith, later Barbara Bodichon. Also included are a few letters to Bodichon from Bessie Parkes, Dr. Emily Blackwell, and Elizabeth Whitehead.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Elizabeth Blackwell letters; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell was born in Bristol, England, in 1821 to a politically outspoken father committed to fairness among his male and female children. In 1832, Samuel Blackwell moved his family to the United States in part for financial reasons but also to participate in the abolitionist movement. Two of his daughters would grow up to continue this fight against slavery and to work towards women's rights, specifically in the area of women in medicine.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

After years of struggling to be taken seriously and receiving rejections from 29 schools, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States in 1849. Upon graduating first in her class from New York's Geneva Medical College, she left for Europe, working in clinics in London and Paris. It was during her time in England in 1850 that Blackwell's cousin, Bessie Rayner Parkes, introduced her to fellow women's rights pioneer Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon. Then, while studying midwifery in France, Blackwell contracted purulent ophthalmia, costing her sight in one eye and prompting her return to New York in 1851.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Sexism in the United States limited Blackwell's opportunities for employment and for much intellectual exchange with other physicians, so, in 1853, Blackwell opened her own small dispensary. Then in 1857, along with her sister Emily, also a doctor, and their friend Dr. Marie Zakrzewska, she founded the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. At the onset of the Civil War, Blackwell organized the Women's Central Association of Relief, training nurses for war service. She and her sister also helped to establish the United States Sanitary Commission. After the war, the Blackwell sisters founded the Women's Medical College at their infirmary in New York where Elizabeth served on the faculty until 1869 when she moved back to London.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Blackwell gave up the practice of medicine in the 1870s due to her declining health, but she continued to teach and campaign for increased opportunities for women in the medical field. She died in England in 1910 at the age of 89. In 1949, 100 years after she received her M.D., the American Medical Women's Association created the Elizabeth Blackwell Medal to honor outstanding contributions made by women in the medical field.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The Elizabeth Blackwell Letters are a collection of personal letters to her friend Barbara Bodichon. They include details of Blackwell's professional activities, her travels, and major events in her life, such as her decision to adopt a child. Many of the letters are congratulatory or condolatory of events in Bodichon's life. Also included in the collection are letters to Bodichon from three other women - Bessie Parkes, Dr. Emily Blackwell, and Elizabeth Whitehead. Parkes was Blackwell's cousin and Bodichon's best friend and introduced the two during Blackwell's study in England in 1850. Emily Blackwell was Elizabeth's younger sister and is mentioned in some of Elizabeth's letters to Bodichon. The four letters from Whitehead are signed simply "Elizabeth;" however, it was determined in 1964 by Elinor Rice Hays, a Blackwell family biographer, that they had not been written by Blackwell. They were therefore attributed to Whitehead based on Hester Burton's biography of Bodichon. A note is attached to each of the four letters.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

A few of the letters in this collection mention Florence Nightingale, Bodichon's cousin.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Included at the beginning of this collection is a "Contents" folder, which provides a brief synopsis of each letter contained in the collection. It appears dates were attributed to many of the letters after this folder had been created. Therefore, the order is not truly chronological.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The original, roughly chronological order of the letters to Barbara Bodichon, which corresponds to pages 2-38 of the "Contents" folder, has been maintained.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

File created. xml document instance created by Catherine N. Carson EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-08-05 2010-08-05 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Alternate Form Available

Microfilm available.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts and University Archivist, Rare

Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1952.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/05/89.

Processing Information

Papers processed by Christina Manzella.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Christina Manzella June 2010.

Accrual

No additions expected

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Selected Related Material at Columbia

[Elinor Rice Hays Papers](#), Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University.

Selected Related Material at Columbia

[Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon Papers](#), Girton College Archive.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Medicine -- Practice -- England
- Medicine -- Practice -- United States
- Feminism
- Sanitation
- Public health
- Women in medicine
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Medical care
- Women physicians
- Bodichon, Barbara Leigh Smith, 1827-1891
- Blackwell, Elizabeth, 1821-1910
- Blackwell, Emily, 1826-1910

Collection Inventory

Series I: Typed Contents List

Title/Description	Instances	
Types contents list of letters, 39 pages.	box 1	folder 1
Scope and Contents		
This list provides the descriptive content of each letter listed in the finding aid.		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Letter from Bessie Parkes to Barbara Leigh Smith

Title/Description	Instances	
Letter from Bessie Parkes (later Mrs Belloc) to Barbara Leigh Smith (later Mme Bodichon). Compton Terrace, November 13, 1850	box 1	folder 2
Scope and Contents		
Dearly beloved Barbarose,		
Scope and Contents		
Language cannot tell you what an exceedingly jolly brick Miss Blackwell, or the evening spent with her yesterday from 41/2 to 81/2		

Scope and Contents

At first we sat down by the fire as we both like unlighted candles, & then she asked my history which I told her in no time, & then I did not like to ask her for hers as I did not know her, but presently the conversation turned that way & then she began

Scope and Contents

Such tale! Of energy, & hope; of repulses from men, & scorn of her own countrywomen. (During her 2 years residence in Geneva, the college town, not Geneva lady would call, or speak to her)

Scope and Contents

Of the glorious day when in a church crowded from ceiling to floor the chief professor after giving the Diplomas to the young men, called her up alone, & rising from his seat & lifting his cap gave her the title of Dr Blackwell. Of the cheers sounding all through the church, & the recanting of all the stupid ladies, who formed in a body at the door & let her & her brother walk thro in a sort of triumphal procession, & of the calls they all paid that afternoon. She left next day. Of the physical hardship of 4 months in the Maternity hospital at Paris, sleeping in a dortoire with 30 coarse girls & women learning to be midwives, whose noise & vulgarity are beyond description - (Think of that my dainty darling)

Scope and Contents

Of the terrible ophthalmia (sic) caught from a little boy she brought into the world & was attending & syringing, of the 3 weeks all she said she must be blind; of her Graffenberg stay, her relapse, & a blind journey from Graffenberg to Paris all alone, just able to open one eye for a blink of 5 seconds, of the terrible operation, & her now tolerable sight which will improve.

Scope and Contents

Ever your Bessie.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Letter from Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 1855-1884

Title/Description	Instances
Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 79 East Fifteenth St., New York, September 25th 1855?, 4 pages	box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Prospect of her sister's Ellen's visit to England to study art . . . Refers to long talk in Regent's Park, to her own life growing year by year, to her steady work as a medical practioner , to disappointment in practical application of grand ideas, and to hopes for wonderful organization of human life . . . Fitness of women for medical life gaining ground each year . . . Prospects of a fellow worker coming to New York next spring, Maria Zacketzewska from the Berlin Hospital

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 79 East Fifteenth St., New York, August 20th 1856?, 4 pages box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Astonishment at hopeless distance from all that interested her during past year . . . "feel I have lost my way over here" . . . "I must stay here for the winter . . . lecture and make firm foundation for New York Institution . . . looks upon England as her home and return there only question of time . . . In the Spring she will spring will see wisest course for the future . . . Has heard of singular chance for forming and endowing women's hospital in New York which will enable English women to graduate in medicine . . . Messages to Bessie (Parkes, later Mrs. Belloc) and to Barbara's sisters

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 79 East Fifteenth St., New York, March 2nd 1860?, 4 pages box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Letters from Barbara and Madame de Noailles confirm her decision not to come to England yet but to work in New York for next few years...Return of £500 for private practice given by Barbara's father..."I have read Miss Nightingale's little nursing book, which makes me regret more than ever her poor health which prevents her carrying out her nursing schemes - and I see more how impossible it would have been for me to do her work. The character of our minds is so different that minute attention to and interest in details would be impossible to me for the end proposed -nursing -. I cultivate observation with much interest for medicine - but I have no vocation for nursing, as she evidently has. It is a capital little book in its way, and I shall find it very useful - you noticed her little sneer at the hospital? How difficult it is for people to understand other's work"...Hopes of raising \$50,000 and securing house on Second Avenue suitable for Infirmary, and of building cottage at West Bloofield as sanatorium with \$800 provided by Madanme de Noailles...(continued on March 13th) Sanguine hopes for future of work in America. till she

is independent and no longer minds "all that mess of gossip"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon, 79 East Fifteenth St., New York, April 25th 1860. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Welcomes news of Her family in Algiers... Criticizes Florence Nightingale's book on nursing as ill tempered, dogmatic and exaggerated, although readable and valuable... Florence cannot write a book but only throw together masses of hints and experiences, as shown already in her earlier works...Regrets she cannot live in England where neither she nor Emily could have worked...(continued on May 9th from new abode, 126 Second Avenue) where she moved one week before and where she is preparing reception rooms, lecture rooms, wards and dispensaries for the commencement of a medical centre for women... Emily and she will superintend the growth of the work and carry on their own practice...they expect two lady students, Doctor Hughes, a graduate from Philadelphia, and a daughter of Putnam the publisher...Three professorships to be endowed for women, first hygiene, second operative midwifery and female surgery, third agriculture

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. New York, 126 Second Avenue, 8 pages, December 2nd 1860 box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Anxious to hear news of Bella (Barbara's sister, Mrs. Ludlow) and her first child...Immense comfort at having secured house for her center, difficulty of organizing the household, insufficiency of means, clashing of rival interests, hopes of collecting an educational fund, and fears arising out of political disturbance..."we are trembling on the brink of revolution"...Need of £500 per annum for interest in a male college in New York...Regrets at Emily's determination to abandon medicine and travel an devote herself to art...serious at attack of inflammation of her eyes which leaves her unable to read a book or write a lecture and which will make a professorship impossible, although ordinary practice and direction of an institution still remain possible... £130 placed at her disposal by Madame de Noailles for a country sanatorium units quite inadequate, but might be useful for a cottage for the English work...suggests Miss Garrett spend next winter in America...Regrets that Lady Byron has left nothing for the plans for which she professed such interest...Inquires whether Bessie (Parkes, later Mrs. Belloc) is turning Catholic, whether her brain is seriously weakened and Florence Nightingale's mined

seriously unhinged... Discusses question of slavery and nomination of Lincoln as President of the Republic, views of South Carolina, incompetence of Buchanan and growth of belief that slavery is a good in itself... Bitter enmity between South and North and lack of national sentiment...Probability of civil war and of secession of cotton states

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. New York, 126 Second Avenue, January 14, 1861. 4 pages

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Unable to accept invitation to Barbara's "sunny home" owing to "unspeakable misfortune" of permanent weakening of her vision... Quiet growth of work for opening existing institutions to women not so advertised as silly schemes at Boston and Philadelphia for female schools of medicine...Two ends sought - addition of one or two preceptorships to Dispensary for which small fund required (\$50,000), and formation of committee on the medical education for admission of students to Institution (letter unfinished).

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. New York, 126 Second Avenue, June 1st 1861.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

American stocks will fall very low for some time but Northern States will flourish however the war may terminate...Significance of facts in America different when viewed in Europe which sees utter break up of the Union, instead of necessity of the crisis and emergence of great good bought at a terrible price... Description of New York all coloured by the war, parks filled with barracks and streets resounding with music of regimental bands...(continued on June 11th) Rejoices at Barbara having good time in Brittany... Extra work in training nurses for the army...Miss Dix appointed Matron General has directed that part of nurses should be women in response the popular feeling but against War Department...Miss Dix not being good organizer confusion will result...Much work thrown on Institution...Elizabeth well and eyes better

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. June 5th 1861. 4 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at good news of Bella (Barbara's sister, Mrs Ludlow) and her baby, and at success of Barbara's pictures...Grieves at tone of American papers towards England...Americans are struggling for national existence, not for anti-slavery...Growing strength of North due to inaction, cowardice and brag of

South...Difficulties of her work owing to jealousy of doctors and lack of any support...Mania of women to "act Florence Nightingale" without system or discrimination or practical knowledge...Eye troubles of Kitty, her adopted daughter, and desire to adopt two or three more English children of good stock... Appreciation of Silas Marner by Mrs. Lewes (George Eliot) as less interesting than others

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 1861? 4 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Conversion of Bessie (Parkes, later Mrs. Belloc) to Catholicism...Little confidence in Mr. Lewes (husband of George Eliot)...All dark in political situation... not a fight for principles or anti-slavery or patriotism but for self-preservation and tariffs...President has called for 75,000 Militia, but Washington may well be occupied by rebels first...Growing respect for work of Institution...Emily sceptical, but medical training not intended to make men out of women, but to educate women in benevolence, intelligence and activity so as to find their own place and work...(letter unfinished)

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue New York, December 30, 1861? 4 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Fears that England will fight the North to establish Southern independence and free trade...Press on both sides rising to war pitch...Northern insolent against England but dreadful that England should support barbarism of South with her trade and oligarchical sympathies, which may lead to maintenance of slavery by England...Trent affair not an insult to English flag, but bitterness may accumulate until hostilities result and every dollar of English property is confiscated... Trial of her personal feelings between two countries, but necessity of remaining in New York to protect practice of \$300 a year until independence achieved in five years' time gives possibility of practising in England...Regrets about Florence Nightingale "who might be so valuable" but would have worked her to death if she had accepted her offers

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 26 Second Avenue, New York, March 9, 1862. 8 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Continued success of work in spite of war...suggests best way of using £1,000 offered by Barbara is to create two fellowships for unmarried women... Advocates University for women for the sake of absolute equality of advantage...Proposes to enquire

into Vassar College for Women founded with \$400,000
by wealthy brewer

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 26 Second Avenue, New York, June 9, 1863. 8 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Progress of the college during past Winter and Spring...Unwilling to join homeopathic Medical College for Women in New York, and unable to obtain openings for women in existing intuitions... Reluctantly forced to establish college for women with admission for male students...Is it wise for English women in America to begin this new and arduous work?... "This is the duty that lies nearest to us, and we will do it"...Stimulus of another mind required...Her country house at West Blomfield...While country is in such a state, business seems more flourishing

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Montclair, Sept. 7, 1864. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Grief or invalidism and hysterical condition of Nanny (Barbara's sister)...Description of her count cottage hung with Barbara's pictures...Work of women for women higher than work of men for women... Antagonism between work and love a stumbling block in her own life...Affair between Bessie (Parkes, later Mrs. Belloc) and her cousin Sam...(letter unfinished)

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 2nd Avenue, New York, Jan. 18, 1865. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Tactlessness of "little humbug of a college" in New York for women...Harshness of Miss Garrett... Miss Cobbe's book "Broken Lights" criticized for its theism and negation of the Incarnation - "intensely reasonable"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, May 23, 1865. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Effect of National events of past four years on people's lives, and especially of recent "wicked blow" at dead leader, who "expressed the American heartbeat and was transparent to their will:..Steady growth of hospital, though school not yet founded...Completion of course of lectures for girls on health matters...Letter from Florence Nightingale (in which she speaks of

herself as an incurable invalid) regarding a New York hospital on Ward's Island

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, Jan. 13, 1867. 6 pages.	box 1	folder 2
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Accident on Mississippi...Misery in England to which she hopes to return in two years...Financial progress of American work...Emily to head establishment

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, March 2, 1869. 4 pages.	box 1	folder 2
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Admirable growth of infirmary and college...Hopes of summer holidays in England...Growth in America of sentiment in relation to women

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, June 16, 1869. 4 pages.	box 1	folder 2
---	-------	----------

Emily to Barbara Bodichon. 128 Second Avenue, New York, June 25, 1869. 6 pages.	box 1	folder 2
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Elizabeth taken her passage for July 15th by one of the smaller Cunards...Result of first year of College experience now just finished -- success greater than anticipated and justified opening of school...Winter costs more than \$5,000, with a further donation of \$10,000 obtained...Rent for two years of the adjoining house...Plans for summer holidays and next October session...Enquires about women suffrage in England -- In America more fuss is being made, and women are "stumping" the country as never before...Criticisms of New York, where life is low and the spirit unamerican

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. April 23rd. 1 page.	box 1	folder 2
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Rebellion threatens the subversion of the government and invasion of "our very houses"...The conspiracy of the South and unparalleled treachery of Virginia overwhelms the North, every man is drilling...Oppressed with work of directing women in nursing..."We stand by the country to the last!"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, June 23rd. 7 pages.	box 1	folder 2
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Contemplates modification of threatened system of medical education and establishment of a Doctorate of Hygiene in the hope that family practice would be transferred to the new doctors...Wishes to lengthen term of medical study, reduce drugs and disease to their proper place as subordinate to hygienic agents, giving place to water, air, food, electricity etc...Proposes to divide students into classes who would spend each day visiting houses of the poor, to observe, report and remedy defective hygienic conditions, thus turning young doctors out through practical hygienists...Women medical question too narrow a ground for her in America and its growth only a question of time, but question of hygiene must be worked out either in England or America...Doctorate essential for her plan, and can be obtained in America...Could it be obtained in England? Parliament must empower conferring degree of Doctor in Hygiene and Medicine on women who have passed the required examinations...Plan will meet with much opposition, as being a condemnation of present system of medical education and anti-women feeling which has never been fought in England...requests advise

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, Oct. 28. 4 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Desires to give herself more and more to study of hygienic subjects, and partial change her mode of life by exchanging general practice for more intellectual work...Her ambition regarding hygiene has had its wings clipped, for none of her co-professors will go to her length in the matter...Preparing introductory address for opening ceremonies on 2nd November, but seized by influenza...Miss Jex-Blake joining the class but must work harder to gain her diploma

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, Nov. 25. 4 pages.

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Appreciates generous donation from Barbara and Mrs. Gurney towards the fair on 10th December...She expects \$50,000 from business men in New York for an educational fund towards buying scholarships in a male college in New York...Infirmity would select and aid female students, while becoming itself a special school of female disease, supplementing the medical college and general hospitals...In public affairs considers that if the North makes a mean compromise with the slave power, respect for America will be

utterly lost...Letter received from Miss Garrett again defeated at St. Andrews...Considers Miss Garrett will be compelled to change her course and seek for the establishment of independent method of education...Discusses gymnastic system of Doctor Lewis of Boston for muscular development for girls and hopes to instruct classes in England in them

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. N.p., n.d. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

[Beginning missing]...Convictions which have stood 30 years of hard practical life...(1) Doubt can become a disease, and faith is normal; (2) Religious truths are innate, flowing directly from God and not product of logical process, but instinctive...Believe in continuation of conscious individuality is a living certainty independent of reason...Unwavering belief in God, Christ, immortality, infinite progress...after passing through Unitarianism and Transcendentalism..."Incarnation the grandest fact of the Universe, the great symbol of the inflowing of the spiritual life into humanity and the encouraging prophesy of endless progress"...Details of Christ's life and personality of little consequence...Value of constant prayer...Read Hugh Miller, not Darwin, Br. Arnold's life, not Marian Evans

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. N.p., n.d. 2 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

[Beginning missing]...Business as usual in midst of upset of all regulations and landmarks...General belief in defeat of rebels

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. N.p., n.d. 4 pages. box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

[Beginning missing]...Slavery a subordinate issue in America...England has no good statesman, but only narrow mean blunderers, and her people selfish, arrogant, and shortsighted...England does not realize North is her national ally...Religious controversies in England puerile compared with inner experience of good and spiritual communion with unseen world...Reading of Arnold, Hughes and Fichte

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 79 East 15 Street, New York, June 3, 1856. 8 pages box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

"To the Reform Dirm" -- (i.e. Barbara, Leigh-Smith Bodichon and Bessie Parkes)...Detailed account of finding of her adopted daughter Kitty...Visible

progress in sentiment of American people in relation to women in medicine...Future of work for Emily in founding practical school of medicine for women in America, and then returning to England to promote the same work there

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. New York, Oct. 28 (before 1857). 4 pages box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

"My dear friends" -- (Barbara and Nannie Leigh-Smith)...Enquires of Barbara's proposed school of Art for the poor...Difficulties facing schools for women in Philadelphia, Boston and New York...Praises Antioch College, but expresses reserves regarding Miss Pennell, appointed Professor there...Blames Miss Bremen's book on America

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 126 Second Avenue, New York, May 25, 1860. 4 pages box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

Appreciation of latter's father on his death...Value of true work to women -- "Perfect freedom and full satisfaction"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. From a small undated slip of paper box 1 folder 2

Scope and Contents

"For a certain paternal offer, dear Barbara, in your letter I send my warm recognition of its meaning. Should I need it, you shall know, but I have nothing to say now, and the subject is too sacred for speech without any basis of fact.

Elizabeth Blackwell to Miss Smith. 36 Albert Street, London, Thursday morning [1850?]. 2 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

My dear Miss Smith...Proposes a stroll in Regents Park

Elizabeth Blackwell to Miss Smith. 36 Albert Street, London, Thursday morning [1950?]. 1 page box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

My dear Miss Smith...Proposes a meeting on following day

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 9 Dorset Square, London, July 29 [1869?]. 4 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Arrival in Liverpool on previous day...Hopes for early meeting but obliged to see her sister Marian in Paris

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, London, July 23 [1874]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Suffering from effects of London atmosphere and hoping to leave for Wimille on 18th August

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Paris, Jan. 29 [1859]. 5 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Refers to her Italian journey and her visit to Madame de Noailles engaged in a family quarrel and excited almost to insanity, who likes so much the idea of a Sanitary Professorship that she promised her house at Brighton, valued at 5,000 pounds, to be sold in order to rent a suitable property near London, Barbara and Lady Byron to be associated in holding the property...Refers to visit to Miss Nightingale who believes that she (E.B.) to be the only woman capable of carrying out her plans should she herself be unable to execute them, but has exacted a promise not to reveal these plans, which however she (E.B.) could never carry out as it would entail sacrificing her own medical life -- "She recognizes the value of my position as physician and considers that that very education would be invaluable to the carrying out her objects -- at the same time she is not prepared to endorse fully the medical idea; she is not unfriendly to it, but she has not realized the importance of opening medicine to women generally.

Scope and Contents

This proceeds partly from her utter faithlessness in medicine -- she believes that hygiene and nursing are the only valuable things for sickness, that the physician's action is only injurious, counter-acting the useful efforts of nature"...Refers to morbid sensitiveness of Florence Nightingale to being talked about...Met at Mentone Mrs. George Baring who had spoken of her as "that dreadful woman" but now sought full medical consultation from her...Proposes leaving at once for England, as Emily does not know what arrangements to make about the New York house, her inclination being for England, but her judgement for America...Addition from 73 Gloucester

Terrace, Hyde Park, London, Feb. 3rd, asks if Barbara will agree to be trustee, in spite of her marriage

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 73 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park W., March 16, [1859]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Proposes to remain in England during the season...Success of her lectures before an audience of 200 women...Mentions following plan of work: 10,000 pounds to be raised for a womens hospital, 50,000 prospectuses to be distributed over England, a small central committee to be formed, and her own lectured to be repeated in various parts of England, -- all this to test English sentiment. If full response is met, work will be commenced in England; if not, she will return to America to educate others who will return to England to do it later...Florence Nightingale's scheme of absorbing her in nursing plan would simply kill her and prevent her continuing with her "education of the physician", which cannot be accomplished through Miss Nightingale's plan...Discusses Bessie Parkes journal criticised by many including Miss Nightingale

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 73 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park W., April 15, [1859]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

It is really so Dearest Barbara!...Discusses safest times for making the voyage from Algeria to England, but recommends she should be joined by her family...Prescribes medical advice...Anticipates probability of being unable to remain long in England

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 73 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park W., May 7 [1859]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Grief at news of her health...As regards medical matters Madame de Noialles backed out of her promises owing to lack of interest in a hospital not in the country but in London...Only hope for aid now lies in lecturing in Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool...Failing such aid, proposes to return to New York

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, Aug. 20, [1869]. 6 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Just returned from Ramsgate...Expresses thanks for hospitality and hopes to visit the English lakes in September

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. N.p., Monday Aug. 23 [1869?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Refuses to accept judgment of Misses Davies and Garrett regarding assumption of title and placing the college at Hitchin instead of Cambridge, and anticipates difficulty in maintaining pleasant relations with these two ladies until their ruffled feathers have begun to smooth down

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, Aug. 25 [1969?]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Agrees to follow her advise and call on Miss Davies... Interest of H.B. for her youngest sister and desire to know him better...Dining with Miss Jex-Blake

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Sussex Square, Brighton, Aug. 30, [1869]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Refreshing time with Miss Jex-Blake...Proposes to spend September in Hertfordshire and Wales

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, Sept. 6 [1969?]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Money from her not received, but kept by Emily...

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Surrey Villas, Upper Norwood, September 23 [1869]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Wish not to ask Mr. Mocatta to be treasurer...Proposes to resign in connection with school, if she cannot control Miss J.B., who holds the money and has rented the cuilding...Hopes to save the cause from scandal

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, Oct. 4, 1869. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Advises her to go to Paris for her teeth...Miss Lumsden to leave Girton at Easter...Delicate work of

reorganising the medical college and managing its finances...Expects to obtain sufficient controlling force to keep Miss J.B.'s cleaverness and energy in their proper place

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Blandford Square, Oct. 12 [1869?]. 4 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Anxious and busy time with the college owing to the "active member", who wants to live in the college and keep all the money in her hands...Efforts to prevent the appointment to Physiology of a horrid French American vivisectionist

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Chelsea, Thursday night [1870?]. 7 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Entirely engaged in and out of school at Carlisle Street in absence of any assistant and of Eliza Fox, but has not felt so strong and fit for years, and much helped by Jessie (? White Mario) and Alice in dealing with 60-64 children in both schools...Expecting visit of Bessie (Parkes) in connection with a cast for her room, but will herself search for the "awe inspirer and love creator we have set our hearts on finding"...Discusses fascination of Bell (Barbara's sister, afterwards Mrs Ludlow) for "all, from American Senators down to waiters and donkey boys"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Chelsea, August 19 [1870?]. 3 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

In search of a cast found a splendid Bacchante reveling in delicate enjoyment...but that would not do for our school room"...Talk with Ronge about obtaining co-operation of parents in his educational plans

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Chelsea, Sept. 1, [1870?]. 6 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Still in search of a cast has found a Madonna without the Child called the Immaculate Conception, price 10s, and asks consent to buy it...Attendance at both schools now 74, and Ellen Allen "has taken to her work splendidly"...Praises Jessie White and her writing...Tells of Mazzini's preference of pines

"expressive of aspiration" rather than oaks and elms
 "with smooth rounded outlines"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Piccadilly, August 25 [1870?]. 7 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Stresses importance of Continuing to take medicine prescribed for her pains and oppression of her throat, and of avoiding cold and fatigue and painting after sunset, and wishes she could devote herself to her care "so well and unobtrusively that you would not get weary of me"...Promises to send her passport, but fears her intention of running away from England again...Praises Ellen Allen's work at the school...Visit from Miss Florence Hill..."I kiss your hands and your deautiful hair -- and then your lips"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. La Tresorerie, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France, August 20, 1874. 2 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Safe arrival on Tuesday in brilliant sunshine... Description of downs, pastures, sea, farm houses, woods, churches and chateaux...Three miles from Boulogne

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. La Tresorerie, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France, August 28, [1874]. 2 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Proposes returning to London 8th Sept. in order to fit women for Apothecaries Hall and to serve on Miss Jex-Blake's council, although much annoyed by latter

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. La Tresorerie, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France, October 20, 1874. 2 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Arrived yesterday to see her two sisters...proposes return Thursday Oct. 26th

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Castle House,, Feb. 10. 3 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Hopes to see Barbara before Feb. 25th at 13 Rue Lauristan, Paris which she expects to leave after two weeks from Feb. 12th, leaving England on the Saturday morning

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Castle House, March 18, [1975?]. 4 pages box 1 folder 3

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at Barbara's move to Algiers, but regrets her relations with her sister Nanny...Refers to Miss Clements and her child to whom Barbara is acting as guardian...Damage done by high tide at Hastings...Leaving on March 28th for London until her brother sails on April 18th...Proposes to lecture during May in London, where her address after March 28th will be 116 Milton AStreet N.W., her headquarters remaining Hastings where she hopes to secure a house

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Castle House, Castledown Terrace, Oct. 4 [n.y.]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Arrived this morning...proposes to stop with Barbara following week...Regrets her intention of going to Algiers...Finds boarding house comfortable

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Castle House, Castledown Terrace, Dec. 3 [n.y.]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Failed to find in Hastings Aunt Julia (Aunt of Florence Nightingale)... Sea sulky and ground sloppy with snow

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Castle House, Castledown Terrace, Thursday. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Wishes Happy New Year, and trusts Barbara has passed most terrible crisis in her life...Florence Nightingale though not very well, enjoying herself greatly

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 116 Milton Street, N.W., May 4 [1875?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Left Hastings over a month ago, now staying upper Gloucester Place London, above being permanent address...Rejoices at success of Barbara's visit... Blandford Square House let to strangers...Proposes returning to Hastings June...Just given first lecture

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 6 Burwood Place, May 20 [1870?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at Barbara's successful journey to France...
Proposed seeing Brodies at Oxford

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Granville Place, Portman Square W., May 21. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at success so far of Barbara's journey home...
Has had thirteen attacks of agonizing pain and vomiting in past month, Doctors attributing trouble to gall stone...Hopes to see Barbara in London, but will keep her residence secret...May not return to Hastings where her attacks started...Hoping for fresh account of Barbara's African explorations

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Granville Place, Portman Square W., June 19. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Decided not to leave England this summer...Speaks of corruption of country's youth by legislation in all subjected towns, and need of national work for the purpose

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Granville Place, Portman Square W., June 27. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Hears Barbara's brother (the explorer Benjamin Leigh Smith) is contemplating and expedition to the north and recommends a surgeon...Intends going to Royal Hotel, Weymouth on Thursday

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Granville Place, Portman Square W., Monday 27. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Very sorry to miss her...Proposes going to Hastings to look for houses for rent or sale

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Gloucester Hotel, Weymouth, July 19. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Speaks of adoption of a baby

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Gloucester Hotel, Weymouth, July 27. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at success of Barbara's Cornish cottage...Anxiety regarding her work owing to epidemic of Whooping cough among her friends

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Gloucester Hotel, Weymouth, July 29. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Refers to Renan's philosophical essays in the Westminster Review and the astounding lengths of his insolent self-conceit...Considers possibility of building a samll house on half and acre of land near London or at Hastings

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Granville Place, Portman Square W., October 13. 3 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Has received request from a friend in America to sit for portrait at her expense and seeks information regarding portrait painters in London and Italy...Hopes to leave on Wednesday October 18th for Wilille and Genoa where she hopes to stay until November 10th

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 6 Burwood Place W., Dec. 9 [1870?]. 3 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

May go to Wales for Christmas and offers Barbara hospitality in her house...Talks of pending work for Sunday Lecture Society, Working Women's College and the Royal Commission on the C.D.A.

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 6 Burwood Place W., Dec. 12 [1870?]. 1 page

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Has given up her Welsh project and invites Barbara to dine on Christmas day

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Exmouth Lodge, April 16 [1875?]. 3 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Thanks for the sunflower seeds...Gives Milton Street as her address...House being repaired and hopes to settle in end of May...Prefers air of present place to that of

Undercliff...Trusts that Barbara's new house can now be furnished and be dry enough to settle in

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 116 Milton Street, Dorset Sq. N.W., Wimbledon, Aug. 20 [1875?]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Leaving Wimbeldon after two weeks, searching neighbourhood to spend fortnight in Isle of Wight and continue search there

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Brynarvor, Towyn, Merionethshire, Sept. 9th. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Owing to repairs to Rock House cannot lend it to Barbara...Staying on until Sept. 19th

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 26 Caledonia Place, Clifton, Bristol, Sept. 12th. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Remaining 10 days longer...While at Swanage received enquiries from Aunt Julia...Leaving for Folkestone for two weeks...Did not communicate different Welsh addresses...Delighted with Caerleon and saw room where Tennyson wrote the Idyls...Proposes spending Christmas with Barbara

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Vine Villas, Seven Oaks, Kent. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Dismayed at the crisis – Government action corruption, insolent and dangerous

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. From America, [1856?] or [1867?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Rejoices at Emily's trip to Switzerland and Italy where she will see Barbara and deserves to be made much after 10 years of very hard work without a holiday...Continuing for the summer forming all sorts of plans connected with wards, dispensary, house-keeping and private practice, and looking towards England

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Friday. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Thanks for statement on her life and work

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Alpha Cottage, Swanage, July 9. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Asks for destruction of strictly confidential letter about Girton drainage, which she hopes the headmistress will settle satisfactorily

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Alpha Cottage, Swanage, July 23. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Expresses anxiety regarding London and Westminster Bank owing to heavy losses...Proposes leaving for Abercarn August 17th, where disaster at her cousin's place has destroyed half their garden with terrible loss of life further down the valley

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Alpha Cottage, Swanage, Aug. 6 [1875?]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Has accepted post of Professor of Diseases of Women offered by the London School of Medicine for Women...Requests amusing French book to read with Florence (Nightingale)...Proposes leaving for Abercarn on August 17th

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Alpha Cottage, Swanage, Aug. 13 [1875?]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Accepts offer of bed at 5 Blandford Square for two or three nights...Acknowledges receipt of book... Requests information about Bexhill, which she proposes to visit after Wales

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. [Jan. 1878?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Writing out of the midst of intense "congress" atmosphere...Much work and excited discussion, capital doctors, interesting german and Italian representatives...Has met Jessie White Mario -- "A volcano and embodied Revolutionary!"...After end

of congress proposes to go to Nice where her sister Marian lives, and to return to England in October

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 1 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Jan. 17 [1878?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Drums beating under her windows, soldiers marching and all the people streaming back from the funeral Mass in the Cathedral for King Victor Emmanuel -- Deep affection felt for him in South and Central Europe...Quots a letter in French from Madame Trelat regarding her aging husband...trip to Bordighera and Mentone...Enthusiastic reception of Gambettea at Nice railway station...Enquires after additions to Scalands House

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 3 Rue des, Paris/Nice, Feb. 13 [1878?]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Unexpectedly summoned to Hyeres to attend on Mrs. Chaplin Ayrton, a young lady doctor, mortally ill...Hopes of eatablishing a Riviera Branch of the Social Purity Alliance...Working on her book "The Education of Daughters" -- so frank and in advance of received opiniopns that publication in England improbable...Rejoices at progress of Barbara's night school

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Feb. 14 [1878]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Her book not to be published yet, as subject so important and treatment of it so bold, that she will first invite friendly criticism...Inquires about progress of Scalands and suggests meeting Barbara on her return to England at Norwood...Attended conference given by Mrs. Josephine Butler

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Feb. 24 [1878]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Enquires regarding her health, visit of Bessie (Parkes) and Miss Jekyll's repairs of Scalands... Suggests meeting between Barbara and Bessie at Arundale...Visited Doctor Bennett's garden at Mentone where she saw thousand year old Grimaldi Tower

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, March 27 [1878]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Proposes returning to England at the end of April, staying two weeks at Norwood and spending summer in Devonshire, attending to publication of her book...As Scalands will not be ready, suggests meeting Barbara near Weybridge and later in Devonshire

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Sept. 30 [1878]. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Announces safe return to Nice and her sister Marian...Anxious for Barbara to stay at Hastings, and promises to come to England if Barbara really needs her

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Oct. 29, [1878]. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Returned safely previous evening through Marseilles...Proposes finishing manuscript of her book and sending it for criticism in February...Begs her not to worry about Madame Mario

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Nov. 7, [1878]. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Anxious regarding her health and warns against too much excitement...Describes her quarters in the unfashionable part of Nice, the Republican gains in the whole department Alpes Maritimes and the energetic activity of the local paper...Admirable order during elections...Wonders at Republican gains in spite of pressure put on to the country...At Boulogne children's school books covered with paper on which was written letters "Candidature du Maréchal"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Nov. 15, [1878]. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Has received accounts of her and forwarded them to Madame Mario...Presumes Dr. Bodichon is returning on that day to Algiers...Large life-size portrait made of her at Innsbruck reached Boston very much damaged...Hopes her new rooms at Hastings will be a success and that she is continuing her painting

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Dec. 2, [1878]. 4 pages

box 1

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Rejoices to hear she is gaining strength at Hastings... Approves addition to rooms to Scalands as "no other country place would ever have certain old family advantages which are now more than ever important to you", and recommends her living on the upper floor, building a dining-room over the kitchen and throwing out a covered verandah 8 feet above the ground

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 13 Rue des Ponchettes, Nice, Dec. 8, [1878]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Repeats her recommendations regarding Scalands, especially construction of balcony as a source of health and refreshment...Proposes next Spring to settle in England possibly near Weybridge

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 150 Rue St. Dominique, Nice, Dec. 13 [1858]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

[No beginning]...Describes feeling of destiny overshadowing her in relation to England -- a force which has guided the chief events of her life, independent of her own volition...Barbara's opposition to her remaining in England is based on her working in the same way as in New York, but there is another way of working and she is considering availing herself of the opportunity to try it

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 160 bis Av. D'Eylau, Friday 6th, Feb. 24 [1878]. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Accepts offer to stay at No 5 (Blanford Square) Has recovered from sea-sickness and is executing commissions for her College and settling things with her sister Marian due to sail on 21st...Hopes to return by Thursday 12 inst. and to see Barbara on Saturday 14th

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Hotel du Nord, Saturday morning [1876]?. 4 pages	box 1	folder 3
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Regrets at leaving her on previous day "shut up in dingy old London", but had very good passage, and will continue her journey at 11 a.m. to reach Cannes on next afternoon...Now, Dearest Barbara, remember that I consider you henceforth exactly like a member of my own family, and my special charge. I shall settle

in England, not in Italy; and I shall always hold myself in readiness to come to you, when you really have not need of me...God bless you dearest Barbara – I send you two of our rare Blackwell kisses – which however mean much

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Nov. 7 [1878]. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

All ready for the departure of Mrs. Hammond from 132 by the 2 p.m. train...Proposes to remain at the above address and to see Barbara for a few days in London

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Nov. 12 [1878]. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Rejoices in her return to her comfortable home...Returns letter from Bessie (Parkes) and considers cultivation of Light Food Industries by women of immense importance

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Nov. 15 [1878]. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Regrets inability to meet her in London...Asks whether Miss Ewart's sister, a lady farmer, would be interested in the subject of promoting Light Food Industries among women

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, St. Leonards on Sea, Nov. 17 [1879]. 1 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Delighted to come up to her for a few days on Wednesday

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Nov. 24 [1878]. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Owing to a cold disappointed not to be able to keep her engagement with her in London...Slow progress of her book, which should be printed in four months time

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Dec. 2 [1878]. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Doubts of Bessie's (Parkes) discretion...Anxiety regarding British Government -- "what blood horror and demoralisation rests directly on Beaconsfield's vulgar ambition!"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Dec. 5, [1878]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Sudden death of Mr. Lewes a terrible blow for his poor wife

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Dec. 22, [1878]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Arrived safely from London...Her book oriented, approved by printers and Editor of Hastings Observer

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Jan. 20, [1879]. 1 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Regrets her suffering and promises visit next Saturday, Jan. 25...Advises against long journey to Hastings

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Feb. 1, [1879]. 1 page	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Has visited and recommends 8 Pelham Crescent (Hastings) at £4 a week

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Feb. 3, [1879]. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Again recommends 8 Pelham Crescent for Barbara and her four servants

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, March 1, [1879]. 2 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Regrets inability to visit her on account of attack of shingles "whose amiable peculiarity is to rasp every nerve of the body"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 10 Undercliff, Sunday morning. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Has sent package of magazines to her at Totes Court...
Praises work of Dr George at Pathological Society and
of Miss Weston for the Royal Naval at Plymouth

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 12 Marine Parade,
Hastings, July 14. 2 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Encloses letter from Mme Trélât (wife of head of La
Salpêtrière)...Proposes sending her fish

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Poste Restante,
Salzburg, Austria, May 23. 4 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Delay from day to day at Innsbruck by her painter...
Hopes to attend the Geneva Convention before
returning to England...Inability to live in London
a great blow, as it throws her out of her medical
plans and she must reshape the remainder of her
life, which is over as regards a physician in regular,
steady practice, but she hopes to benefit from her
knowledge of human nature and her world-wide
experience...Proposes to stay in the Tyrol until the
end of September...Large, life-size portrait of her by
Duverneck finished and sent to America

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Gmunden,
Austria, Aug. 5. 4 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Counting weeks before seeing her in London as soon
as the convention is over...Proposes remaining at
Gmunden until she leaves for Geneva in September...
Has become deeply interested in the young Jew whom
she looks upon as a son

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Gmunden,
Austria, Aug. 15. 4 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Describes beauty of the place and neighborhood gay
with Austrians, Germans, Hungarians, and Russians in
honor of the Viennese Singverein

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Clifton Place,
Sidmouth, May 30. 3 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Invites her to send June in house at Sidmouth, just outside the Duke of Kent's "charming nook"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 5 Clifton Place, Sidmouth, June 5. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Regrets trouble caused by "Little Alfred", who she proposes should be transferred to her...Surrounding country unattractive, hopes to work her way back eastward

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 12 Marine Parade, Hastings, June 16. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Arrived here yesterday after delightful trip in Devonshire, hopes to compare East with West coast

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 12 Marine Parade, June 19. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Her sister Emily hopes to come to England to see Barbara...Proposes to write to Madame Mrio (Jessie White Mario)...Intends searching neighbourhood for pied-a-terre within reasonable distance of Barbara

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 12 Marine Parade, June 25th. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Expresses pleasure at her visit to Barbar's bungalow and anticipates house will be delightful when work completed by Miss Jekyl (first woman architect) at Scalands

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 12 Marine Parade, July 16th. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Will send fish by train to Robertsbridge

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. 2 Saint John's Street, Oxford, Sept. 26th. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Grieves at loss of her young cousin Ludlow... Astonishing growth of Oxford which she finds cheaper

than Hstings...Refers to a visit to Barbara of Miss Marks

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Friday. 4 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Regrets she cannot come to her at Scalands...
 At meeting at Mrs. Tubbs on previous day about the Reading Home advocated petition to protect minors of both sexes and insists equal legislation...
 Deplores support of C.D. Acts by American wife of Mr. Wilson Nobel proposed Conservative Candidate...
 Recommends Matthew Arnold's article in April 19th Century

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Hastings. 2 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Expecting her on following day at Albion

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Hastings, Jan. 27. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Expects to travel on 25th with Florence (Nightingale) from Folkestone to Paris and regrets Barbara will probably not be able to travel with them as they are going Second Class...and that she will not see her before she goes to Algiers...Will probably not be in London in February

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Hastings, Tuesday morning. 4 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

More anxious about her than her doctor and deplors her giving up her trip Cornwall trip...Baby in a very critical state and cannot move without Henrietta... Suggests talking things over, unless Henrietta telegraphs for her to come to London before leaving on Tuesday for Wimille..."Must see you through your troubles first"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Sunday morning, [1880]. 6 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Returns on Friday from visit to luxurious home of Mrs. Woolcott Browne...Refers to medical meeting and suffrage meeting, and adherence of Daily News... Glade Madame de Noailles remembers her kindly, although no longer controls National health Society,

with which she has remonstrated about bringing vaccination into the work instead of promoting accepted sanitary truths...Madame de Noailles belongs to the class with the habit of trying to say pleasant things to people...Owes her no grudge, although she knew of conference held last spring in Hastings, and pities miserable introverted condition of her life... Regrets 'departure' of Miss Merryweather, who seems to have died on day following acceptance of invitation to meet her, and believes she was killed by the immorality of the young doctors...Rejoices at notice of George Eliots' marriage, since George Lewes can never have satisfied "her great and tender heart" and she must had had an inner sense of failure, bravely and faithfully as she covered it over. I profoundly believe that she has now made no mistake but done quite wisely

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Feb. 4, [1883]. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Commends Rathbone's article...Interesting conference in London and cheque for 100 from Madame de Noailles...Planning to go to London for the week on February 12th...62 on previous day

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Good Friday. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Private...Who is to contest the county at Gastings? – Expenses so great that the two intended candidates declined... Last leaflet to be printed and sent off on Wednesday...Commends work of various women among working men in the gas works and among the fishermen on the beach, but fears that Lady Anne Muray has won all the Catholics at St. Leonards...Although other active ladies working for the Conservatives with bitter activity and unscrupulousness, Liberals seem hopeful

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, April 2. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Hopes that rumors of Mr. Brassey's resignation of his seat are true, as bribery has been carried out to a great extent and "vote for beer" has been the flag in Tory taverns...Expressed deep regret for defeat of Liberal candidate who had just lost his wife on election day... Apathy for Liberals culpable...Local ladies crushed by

Hastings disgrace...Sends wishes for Amy's happiness,
and hopes family differences will be healed.

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, April 12, [1883]. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Out for the first time...Very busy until April 20th with private letters to M.P.'s and prayer meeting...On April 20th hopes to organize "Social Purity Association"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, April 13. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Delighted with visit from Miss Muller and her work on the School Board, visiting 60 schools in her division, very busy electioneering in the Liberal cause

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, April 23. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Asks to introduce Mrs. Hussey, Vice President of New Jersey Society, and enthusiast for women suffrage

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, May 19. 2 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Requests her to visit Hastings...Lucy Stone just recovered from serious illness at Emily's house, whose visit will therefore be postponed

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, May 23. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Affectionate thought always with her during her long time of suffering...Amusing and interesting "voluntary taxation breakfast" in London with 100 other guests and four hours of speeches..."Your health will hardly bear such echoes of active life, but we will commune on all interesting spiritual ideas when we meet together untrammelled by crippling bodies under higher conditions than those of earthly life. I long to join the majority...Cherish this hope, which to me is certainty"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, July 10th. 6 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Requests her help in connection with Magdalen Charity for the poor of Hastings, funds of which certain people wish to appropriate for Grammar School for Boys, but which could be better used for a Technical School for Girls and Boys to learn sanitation, navigation, fish-curing, arts of design and social music, and so to prevent poverty and prostitution

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, July 19th. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Hopes that something may be done regarding Magdalen Charity, but has not the physical strength to fight...Recommends the appointment of three women trustees and retainment of the charity for the poor of both sexes...encloses list of the charity commissioners

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, July 22nd. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Serious conference regarding trustees for the Magdalen Fund and endeavor to obtain exact terms of the charity bequest...Complains of Miss Lankester keeping on committee names of people dead for years

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Exmouth Place, July 27th. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Two doctors taking Barbara's portrait to Boston...Gives account of statement by Fitch at the London School of medicine for Women...Criticises Miss Lankester

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Sept. 20th. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Meditating on stirring up public opinion to found a Horticultural College for young ladies on 300 acres and 50,000 and a Cultural College on 200 acres leased to form an endowment fund...Visit of Aunt Julia (Florence Nightingale's Aunt) grown much older and depreciating value of her past life

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Oct. 27th. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Suggests limitation of her interest in "little Alfred", saved from criminal life and trained to be a carpenter

or sailor...Promises support for child's future...
returning to London on November 2nd

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Dec. 3. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Requests her support in effort for "development of country life", enclosing prospectus and giving names of a Committee for a Farm College including Mrs. Parkes Belloc and a Committee for placing pupils in existing opportunities, in which she has no faith whatever

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Dec. 5th. 2 pages	box 1	folder 4
---	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Peaceful end for the General (Ludlow, brother-in-law of Barbara)...Suggests "the Girls" should come to Barbara and win their way to her brother's heart

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Hastings, Dec. 19th. 4 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Delighted at promising account of her health and asks for constant reports...Madame de Noeiles arrived at 46 Warrior Square from Eastbourne for the Winter...Two American lady doctors expected for Christmas... her book "Wrong and Right Methods" being printed pp "People may shriek at my new audacity:...Recommends long visit and Invigoration for Amy (later wife of Sir Norman Moore)

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Rock House, Dec. 29th. 3 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Returns book on remedies for gout which she recommends of Barbara's rheumatism returns at Scalands when she returns from Bournemouth... Recommends for country a "colonnade a la Bologne" with a branch to each house doors

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Feb. 5, 1884. 4 pages	box 1	folder 4
--	-------	----------

Scope and Contents

Writing to her at Grasse instead of at Antibes...Held teacher conference at St. Leonards on Jan. 26th...On following Tuesday is to give an address on "Christian Socialism and the Family" and to propose formation of a "Home Colonisation Society" with three conditions for mrmbership: 1. Joint ownership of land, 2. Profit

sharing in industry, 3. Just morality between men and women...Being 63 on previous Sunday is surprised by her temerity, being urged on by some impelling force to do things from which she shrinks...Movement is abroad for the new advent of Christianity, selfish and luxurious are shaking in their shoes...Political world boiling hot, today's session will end in an appeal to the country..."Rest now for you cannot stay quiet, when you come back"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Feb. 5, 1884. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Clever dodge of Conservatives to try and throw out the government on the Egyptian question, for they do not want to come before the country on the franchise question...Government not jingo, although some ministers bad or weak and Gladstone lacking in foresight and promptitude owing to age...Sympathizes with the Mahdi...Terrible account of wreck of Boston steamship taking invalids to the south...On previous day gave address on Christian Socialism and formed nucleus of a "Home Colonization Society"

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., March 10, 1884. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Received her news from St. Raphael, where she herself went from Cannes in 1881...Many social questions now receiving new light, but demoralization increasing in all so-called civilized nations, and corruption in official life...About April 10th will leave Norwood for Vernon, then France and then Hastings... Meeting for repeal of C.D.A. on Feb. 28th at St. James Hall

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Nov. 10, 1883. 4 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Received card from Avignon...comfortable established at Norwood for November, but booked for various meetings in London, Oxford, etc....Distressed by indolence of her earliest American patients who need a Savonarola to stir them up in New York...Stormy times ahead for Parliament...Consequences of meeting between Marquis of Salisbury and Duke of Argyll

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Dec. 22, 1883. 3 pages box 1 folder 4

Scope and Contents

Returns letter of Madame de Noailles, who constantly imposes disagreeable task of refusing her...Gaiety of Crystal Palace

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Dec. 15, 1883. 4 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Received letter from her at Cannes...Decided to remain in same comfortable quarters for the winter, and spend spring in Italy...Wonderful stirring of dead bones in England and some great providential movement vaster than our comprehension...Foreign international socialists attended in force conference of Christian Socialism and insisted on categorical answer whether Christ was God...Met Mrs. Max Muller at Oxford...Trusts that Conservatives will not take up woman franchise at next election

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Braemar House, Upper Norwood S.E., Dec. 26, 1883. 4 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Death of Aunt Julia (Aunt of Florence Nightingale) – "The little faint wavering breath of life is blown out, and dear Aunt Julia is gaining a deeper knowledge of this mystery of human life"...Barbara to reach enoa on Jan. 4th suggests she should go on to Santa Margherita...Christmas kept in a dense fog

Elizabeth Blackwell to Barbara Bodichon. Steamship Persia, Nov. 2,3,5, 1867. 16 pages

box 1

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Feeling of transition state in mid-ocean...Records discussion with Miss Emily Davies (Foundress of Girton College) on eve of her departure from London regarding college plans, alternative of making women share in the existing systems of culture, or of striking out for something new, more practical and modern... Preference for latter and for modification of education for men, opening it to women also...Separate education for men and women one-sided and false, and necessity in education for bridging over the chasm existing between them, and for enabling women to go out freely among men, and for fitting women for their special vocations by giving them an education that brings out their nature more fully...Failure from this point of view of female medical schools in America, even the Vassar College with its endowment of £200,000...Great English universities more adapted to opening way to higher education to women... Special interest in Miss Davie's plan for opening the

higher Cambridge examinations to women, and need to realize importance of Cambridge Association rather than examinations, and establishing a real connection with Cambridge with actual attendance at lectures... Differences between men and women owing to lack of active exercise and sports for girls, and special need for physical stimulus for women...Mistake of starting a college on a small scale and at a distance from Cambridge...Apologises for illegibility of letter written on a truck while small articles are flying over her head

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)