



Loughridge July 30/64.

12 noon.

My dear Mamma,

I have had a strange life since I last ~~to~~ wrote. On Thursday I had an invitation to go to a picnic at Church Stutton given by the Arnosmitts, Collyer and some others. Only Rob and I could go, as J.F. had accounts to settle and Josephine was unwell. We left at 10.30, walked first up the hills on one side of Stutton and then ^{after dinner} 3 young ladies and three young gentlemen, of whom Rob and I were two, started off up the long - ranged hills on the Welsh side of

Stutton. Young Lock and Miss
Ward did not like climbing,
so Bob and Miss Patty Nevitt and
one of the Miss Arrowsmiths and
myself started for the top, it was
about 2 when we left and we
did not get back till 6 when
we had tea; it was a splendid
afternoon though it had rained in
the morning and we enjoyed the day
very much, getting back to Threshing
at 7.30. I went to see the
Arrowsmiths home and got asked
to spend the evening there but as there
were three young ladies and their
mother and no other gentlemen I did

not care to stay, so went back
to Sutton Cottage, Bob having
gone off with some one else. Well
when I got to Sutton Cottage, I
found J. F. had got a telegram
from London to go up with the
accounts at once and that he
had gone back to Snowbridge to get
papers &c, and had left a note
for me and Bob to say we should
have to work all night; soon he
came back and Bob came in
very soon after, when we had tea,
and at ten sat down to the accounts,
~~did~~ then worked on without stopping
for a moment, except for some coffee
at 12, till 5 o'clock next morning

J.F. writing and Bob and I at accounts,
J.F. was to start at 8, and ^{at} 5 he
turned in for an hours sleep, but
Bob and I did not feel inclined
to go to bed or to sleep in the fine
bright summers morning, so we went
out for a walk till six, came home
and had breakfast with J.F. who
then went off: then we had a
good wash and lounged about
till 11, when Bob and I had ~~of~~
agreed to go and see Hawkeston,
a splendid park belonging to the
Clives near Wem; when we got
to the station we found the train
did not

did not stop at Wem, and in
spite of the picnic, when ~~we~~ must
have walked 15 miles at least and
not having ~~had~~ had a moments
sleep, we walked off to Hawkeston
~~15~~¹² miles, then we went about the
Park, which is magnificent, for
an hour, and then walked 4 miles
back to Wem where Professor
Jack (C.E. Queens Coll. Cork) is
staying with his wife at a Mr
Stewarts, when there are 5 ~~other~~
Stewarts; we were ~~forth~~ forth-
with asked to stay to tea and play
croquet, both of which we did, besides
going in after dinner to see Mr ~~Jack~~
Jack who was dining with a Mr

Guyrose, who asked us to come in
after dinner, and finally came
back by train and got to Sutton Cottage
at ten, so for 40 hours we had
been pic-nicing, night-working or
walking. We really did not feel the
worse of it and came down by 11 train
this morning, ~~but~~ ^{and} I am taking it
easy to day, but my arm is so
tired between writing and helping
young ladies that I cannot write
properly. I expect uncle Joe here
some time this evening. He did not
say how long he would stay, but I
have got him a bed at Mr^s Thompsons.

We had a very pleasant day at
the pic-nic, but the refreshment
of it was lost by having to work all
the night after it. Uncle Frank
will be amused at these doings
Hawkeston is one of the finest places
I ever saw and the trees are splendid
and there is water and rocky hills
too. I never saw anything like
the quantity of black rabbits, the
place literally swarms with them.
The house is nothing remarkable.
Miss Tudor ^{and} Rhode, ^{or} one Miss
Nevitt were at the pic-nic; they are
the only names you know, I think.
There were 30 or 40 people in all.

I don't feel inclined to write more
just now but I think I have
given you a full account of our
doings. Joselyn is getting better
and was up yesterday.

your affectionate son
Francis C. Prendergast.

