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Letter to Louise Guiney, 1877 February 24

Patrick Guiney

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Guiney, Patrick, "Letter to Louise Guiney, 1877 February 24" (1877). *Col. Patrick Guiney Letters*. 160.
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Boston, Feb. 24. 1877.

My dear Lulie:

Believe me grateful for your long and interesting letter of the fifteenth inst. I have read ^{it} many times, and each time with increased pleasure. Mamma, also, thanks you for note of the 22^d inst.

Doctor Blake says that you need not take any more pills at present, and thinks that you should have your ordinary food in kind and amount all through Lent; yet he intimates a preference for a breakfast on oatmeal porridge and milk. This is the substance of what he says, and I communicate his opinion to you subject to such modification as your own discretion may suggest. Bear this in mind, however, that in

all matters it is best to follow the advice of ~~some~~ one or more of the ladies in charge of your welfare.

I will preserve "Relics" for you as you request. The verses are very tender, but the subject is altogether too domestic for further comment. Besides, I desire to reserve all my surplus emotion for a sharp criticism of the "Household Minstrelsy", a copy of which you promise me. Speaking of "Household" reminds me of my great obligation to Miss Marie. What's a house without a cat? Please say to that little paragon of decorum that her cat is a very superior cat, and that I feel flattered by the reception of such a token of her esteem. I have placed Mr. Russ in the left hand

lower corner of your dear little crayon "Elsie", there to remain until the scythe of time shall mow down his fur.

I am writing this letter in jerks, as it were, in the odd moments I can spare from business interruptions; and, as I have no time to think of interesting things to say to you, perhaps you will excuse a passing reference to the weather. It is snowing! but I'm afraid to suggest my old stand-by, Winter lingering etc.

Nevertheless, I assure you it is snowing, as I said before, and the air is very chilly indeed - chilling to almost everything about here except my love for pet.

Papa.