

To William Wells Brown

The Knoll, Ambleside  
14 March [1851]

Dear Mr Brown

I have the pleasure to tell you that our friends, the Crafts,<sup>1</sup> are to be gratified, & in the best possible way, in their wish for Education.

I told you I wd apply to Lady Byron, to learn whether they cd be received into one of her Industrial Schools; – they teaching Cabinet-making & sewing in return for Education & maintenance. I heard yesterday from Lady Byron; & the thing can be done.

Her only child is the wife of Lord Lovelace.<sup>2</sup> Their estate is at Ockham, – which is, I think, in Hampshire, – or Surrey, I am not sure which.<sup>3</sup> The Ockham School is the one in which William & Ellen can be received, on payment of a small sum, which can, no doubt, be raised. Lady Byron will herself contribute. One very great advantage will be that they will be under the eye, & the immedi-

ate care, of the Lushington family, & of the excellent Dr Lushington himself. He is an illustrious man in various ways; &, among others, as the friend of the slave: & his & Lady Byron's names are so honoured in America that it will be a gain to the good cause that Wm & Ellen shd be known to be under their immediate protection. – I hope this news will appear as good to you & to them as it does to your friends in this valley. – I have written to tell Mr Estlin, & Mr Bishop of Liverpool.<sup>4</sup>

Now, you must please just let me know whether the Crafts accept this offer: & how soon they will wish to settle at Ockham; & whether they are themselves able to pay any part of the small sum required. I write today to Lady Byron, to inquire how much it is, & more particulars about their settlement. – So I must now wish you good bye. – Your friends here are all well; & we look back with much pleasure on your visit. – Pray give my kind regards to Wm & Ellen, & believe me, dear Mr Brown, very truly yours

Harriet Martineau.

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1. Escaped Georgia slaves William and Ellen Craft acknowledge HM as among those responsible for arranging their welcome, support and education in England (see William and Ellen Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom* (London, 1860)). HM hosted the Crafts in Ambleside, where the couple lectured on slavery in 1851.
  2. Augusta Ada Byron, Lady Lovelace; William King Noel, 1st Earl Lovelace.
  3. Ockham Industrial School in Surrey at Ockham Park, the Lovelace estate. The Crafts studied with the Misses Lushington and Thomas Wilson, Esq.
  4. The Reverend Francis Bishop hosted the Crafts on their arrival in Liverpool, prior to their stay with John Estlin.