

So am quite accustomed to the unavoidable necessity of having to put up with all sorts of things when away from home. The daughter of perhaps 28 years, clever, intellectual, fairly good looking well read & able to form her own opinions, - & as proved in the sequel a capital musician, good tempered, & with a wonderful way of managing her mother & of opening a retreat for her from her oddities, for the old lady's love of doing everything for her self & in an independent way sometimes brings her into situations rather absurd & not very pleasant for a son or daughter to be a looker on at. But I won't sketch this family any more, else you won't believe in

my too strong shade of *couleur de rose*. Yet the understanding²⁵ of this family's character & how they must have been appreciated is necessary to that of the condition of our table, as the old lady's geniality in particular was the heaven which toned our conversation & intercourse, & being happily in the centre of one side she could distribute her favours all around. The daughter's agreeability was not so widely scattered as the old lady's which was simply maternal in its universality, but as I was fortunately near her I could appreciate her good qualities &c &c. The only thing I could regret was that in an aesthetic point