

Hardwick Vicarage, 10 June 1874.

90

My dearest Arthur,

You will sympathise, I know, with the cause of this mourning - the unexpected removal of my wife's eldest brother - the Rev. Arthur M. Wyatt. We heard in Town on Friday that he was very ill - but as he had been suffering for many years from asthma, the news caused us but little anxiety - especially as at Ross station we saw a friend of his who had recently seen him in good health - but yesterday morning came the intelligence that he had bronchitis (brought on I fear by 3 duties the Sunday before last) & was in great danger - but before we received that announcement he had been, several hours, departed. - To us therefore this has been a very unexpected and afflictive sorrow. - But, what is life? Why should these things surprise us, who are all of us standing on the threshold of eternity? And - with the momentous issues of that eternity before us, how small all the corporeal & even intellectual affairs of life appear! God grant that we may each of us be found watching! -

This will not, I see, go today, as I am obliged to go to Hay before post - but I will write on as long as I can.