

Rio de Janeiro
24th February 1868

My dear Miss Barboza

It is my turn now
to claim your indulgence for having
allowed so long a space of time to
elapse before answering your very
nice letter, but, in addition to my
usual avocations my spare time (and
I have little enough of it) has been
employed in looking at houses,
but I cannot find one to suit me,
therefore I must give up the idea
of taking one at present. I can very
easily understand why you regret
Rio, it is very natural that you
should, I think. Your description of
the delicious fruits you have at the
Fazenda, quite made me long to...

take them. I am quite delighted
that you have undertaken to teach
your sisters; there is no better way
of retaining what you already know
than by teaching others. I shall
expect Miss Mary, I think, to be
very forward when she comes to
see. I have read the Doctor's wife; and
Kensel's Pride is one of the new stories.
I wished to procure for you to read. Is
it not amusing? And instructive too.
Hybla, the silly vain creature, who
thinks of nothing but dress, is a fine
contrast to Lucy, who is a very well
drawn character - not too perfect, but
just as she ought to be. And then
the blacksmith's wife! And her ride
to New Jerusalem upon the white
donkey! I think you must have
enjoyed the story exceedingly, as you
had only to look for two or three words;
and that proves the merit of my

method of teaching - that is to
make my pupils read works of fiction
written in a modern style - it fits
them for understanding the books
of the present day, whereas, if they
only read histories, they would not
be able to understand half of what
they read. I have often many sandalades
of you dear Miss Barboza, and wish
that some of my pupils resembled
you in your love of study and wish of
improving yourself. I am going to a
ball this evening at Botafogo, much
against my inclination, for I wanted
to rest myself a little during the
carnival, which does not seem a very
gay one, so must now finish my
letter, which I hope will give you as
much pleasure, as you gave me.
Anne continued has kindly promised

to forward this letter for me, so with
best regards to your Papa and Maureen
love to your sisters, and every kind
and affectionate wish for your present
and future, believe me,

Dear Miss Barbara

Yours very sincerely

Emma Fierherne