1. The letters referred to appeared in the last volume of *Hours at Home*, although many of great interest still remain unpublished [note from editor of *Scribner's Monthly*].

2. Charlotte wrote a number of short plays, and arranged ceremonials such as the coronation performance described here.

3. Maria Brontë died on 6 May 1825; Elizabeth on 15 June of the same year. Since in the spring of that year both had contracted at Cowan Bridge near Kirkby Lonsdale the illnesses that were to prove fatal, a controversy raged for several years as to whether the living conditions at Lowood dramatised in *Jane Eyre* were really as bad as Charlotte had painted them. Those who believed the deaths had been caused by an aggravation of pre-existing ill-health in both children made their case in *A Vindication of the Clergy Daughters’ School, and of the Revd W. Carus Wilson, from the Remarks in ‘The Life of Charlotte Brontë’* (London: Kirkby Lonsdale, 1857). It is easier to credit the position of the Reverend Arthur Nicholls, who, in a series of letters to the *Halifax Guardian*, denounced the wretched sanitation, bad food, and unhealthy ambience of Cowan Bridge as providing ample documentation for the charges made in Charlotte’s novel.

4. Branwell accompanied Charlotte on her first visit to Rydings, near the Halifax road, in September 1832. Ellen returned the visit by coming to Haworth in the late summer of 1833.

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November the 24, 1834, Monday.

Emily Jane Brontë  Anne Brontë

I fed Rainbow, Diamond, Snowflake, Jasper pheasant [alias].

This morning Branwell went down to Mr Driver’s and brought news that Sir Robert Peel was going to be invited to stand for Leeds. Anne and I have been peeling apples for Charlotte to make an apple pudding and for Aunt’s . . . Charlotte said she made puddings...
perfectly and she . . . of a quick but lim[ited]tled intelect. Taby said just now Come Anne pilloputate [i.e. peel a potato] Aunt has come into the kitchin just now and said Where are your feet Anne Anne answered On the floor Aunt. Papa opened the parlour door and gave Branwell a letter saying Here Branwell read this and show it to your Aunt and Charlotte. The Gondals are discovering the interior of Gaaldine.2 Sally Mosley is washing in the back kitchin.3

It is past twelve o’clock Anne and I have not tidied ourselves, done our bed work, or done our lessons and we want to go out to play We are going to have for dinner Boiled Beef, Turnips, potatoes and apple pudding The kitchin is in a very untidy state Anne and I have not done our music exercise which consists of b major Taby said on my putting a pen in her face Ya pitter pottering there instead of pilling a potate. I answered O Dear, O Dear, O Dear I will directely With that I get up, take a knife and begin pilling. Finished pilling the potatoes Papa going to walk Mr Sunderland expected.

Anne and I say I wonder what we shall be like and what we shall be and where we shall be, if all goes on well, in the year 1874 – in which year I shall be in my 57th year. Anne will be in her 55th year Branwell will be going in his 58th year and Charlotte in her 59th year Hoping we shall all be well at that time We close our paper

Emily and Anne
November the 24, 1834

NOTES

(This edition was first published as volumes 14–17 of the Shakespeare Head Brontë, at Oxford: Shakespeare Head Press, 1933; and reprinted at Philadelphia, Penn.: Porcupine Press, 2 volumes, 1980. It is subsequently cited as The Shakespeare Head Brontë.)

1. Emily and Anne wrote their signatures at the beginning of the diary-note. Emily wrote the note itself. Because the diary-notes refer frequently to the animals and birds that the children kept as pets (a cast of characters which was always changing as some died and replacements came to the Parsonage), the reader may usefully be referred to the chapter ‘Pets and Painting’, with accompanying illustrations, in Jocelyn Kellett’s Haworth Parsonage: The Home of the Brontës (Haworth: The Brontë Society, 1977), pp. 71–3.

2. Anne wrote at the back of a Grammar of General Geography a list of the