

Ellen Nussey – Worksheet 1

Charlotte Bronte wrote to Ellen Nussey, to tell her of the difficult time she was having with her brother Branwell. Branwell had become difficult to manage, he didn't allow Charlotte's father to rest day or night; he sometime threatened to kill himself. Using the source transcription, try answering the questions below:



1. What does Charlotte Bronte's letter to Ellen Nussey tell us about her brother Branwell's behaviour?

2. What does the letter from Charlotte to Ellen, tell us about their friendship?

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Branwell is a complete wreck - owing to
remorse for his conduct towards Mr
R - (please see it appears was led
by Sisters of sin) - and grief for
having lost him.

I do not know how much to believe
of what he says but I fear she is very
ill - Branwell declares now that he neither
can nor will do anything for himself -
good subscriptions have been offered more than
once - for which by a fortnight's work
he might have qualified himself - but
he will do nothing - spent dull, and
make us all wretched -

Do not say a word about this to any one
dear Ellen - I know no one but yourself to
whom I would communicate it -

I had a note from Ellen Taylor a week
ago - in which she remarks that letters
were received from New Zealand a month
since or more and that ~~many~~ all was
well - but that they were on business
and not sent anywhere - Mary's name

3. Using the Internet – find out what happened to Branwell?

4. How are letters useful to historians? How has Ellen Nussey's correspondence helped towards giving an insight into Yorkshire women's lives?