

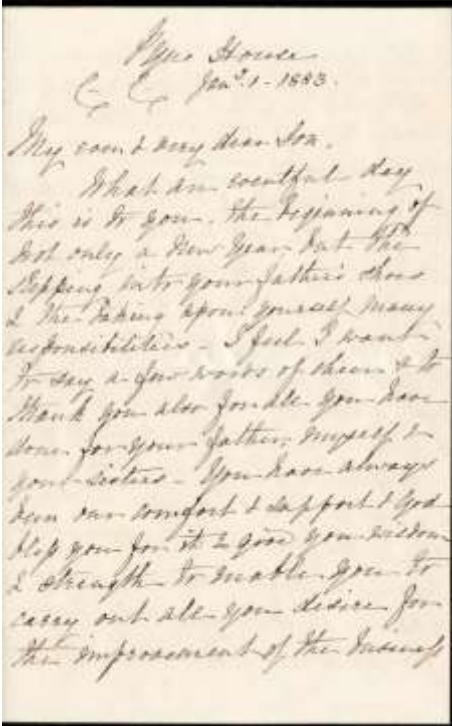
A letter from Barbara Ann Cooper, formerly Hastings, (1818-1903) to her son Philip Cooper (1847-1929) written on the date of his taking over the management of the family ink business from his father David Cooper (1803-1885). Photos reproduced here by kind permission of Henry Underhill.

Pyne House  
Etc. Etc. Jan<sup>y</sup> 1 - 1883

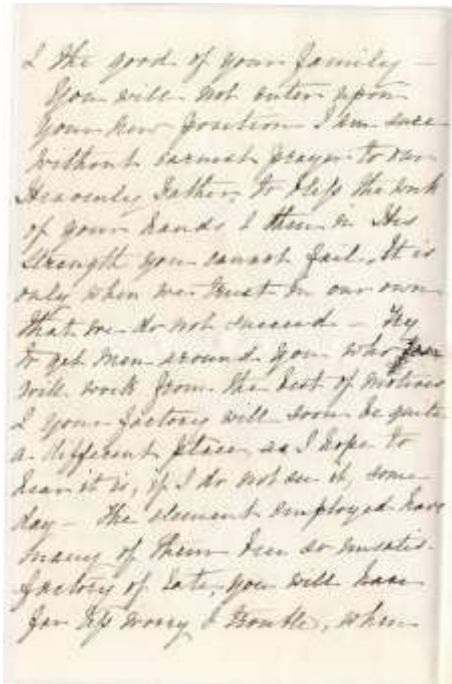
My ever & very dear Son,

What an eventful day this is for you. The beginning of not only a New Year but the stepping into your father's shoes & the taking upon yourself many responsibilities. I feel I want to say a few words of them & to thank you also for all you have done for your father, myself & your sisters. You have always been our comfort & support & God help you for it & give you wisdom & strength to enable you to carry out all your desire for the improvement of the business

& the good of your family. - You will not enter upon your new position I am sure without earnest prayer to our Heavenly Father, to help the work of your hands & then in His Strength you cannot fail. It is only when we trust in our own that we do not succeed. - Try to get men around you who will work from the best of motives & your factory will soon be quite a different place, as I hope to hear it is, if I do not see it, some day. - The element employed have many of them been so unsatis-



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factory of late. You will have  
far less worry & trouble, when

some changes have been made  
& you have people you can trust.  
We shall still want your help  
in many ways, I fear, & we  
shall always feel a deep interest  
in all you do. If God be for  
it, who can be against it.

To His care I commit you & with  
earnest prayer for His Blessing.

Believe Me

Your loving and devoted  
Mother

Don't be over anxious like me.

