

Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

Anna  
Dec 83

As the case may be - I heard of it at this moment and seeing with regard to the quarter of committee for the W. Co. of my there is a full account of what Chapman & Co. in opposition to make some one else the prominent figure would  
Very affectionately  
Anna

Many thanks for your letter, which I doubly value because I know what numbers you have to curite, indeed I hear on all hands of those who have been pleased by the receipt of them - The one that you sent to Mr Ferrier has been travelling about enlightening the public Miss Terry & Adelaide Campbell were quite delighted with it you will be sorry to hear that Mr Watts is seemingly if not dangerously ill - I fancy with typhoid though the papers only say fever We had heard of Sir W. Sturges death by telegraph I felt what a shock I fancy it wd be to you all, it is a mercy that you had not gone there before it happened I thank you for the notice of his life - A most interesting man he must have been - A giant among men -  
I am very sorry that you have all been troubling yourselves

I must be sensible of it, as by it, I could  
he wd like to see another vessel  
having been twice on the Marston

I can assure you that nothing  
cd have been more pleasant &  
kind & considerate than he was  
while here - & Bernard & I quite  
missed him - while the Gannets  
were deprived of their chief stay.

I do really think my  
dearest papa, that you carry  
yourself too much about the loss  
a certain feeling he has that he  
is disappointed of makes him  
appear to a disadvantage, but  
I think you will find that he  
is only trying to find scope for  
his own special capabilities  
which evidently do not remain  
the family ground - already he  
is much more reasonable than  
last winter. I he has really  
been very unfortunate in his speculations  
two men of importance in his  
schemes having died consecu-  
tively, & certainly he cd not help  
that. As to these short-cuts to riches  
I am sure they are often the longest  
roads to it, but I think they were  
very practical, under the present  
course of labour & narrow. If  
brief in time of action, they are  
not easy paths & Kauffman is too  
truthful & honest to prosper in them

about Rankine - I partly I blame  
myself - Certainly it has been  
very troublesome to you to be  
so uncertain as to his movements  
& consequently unsettled as to  
your own - But I am sure  
no one wd be more sorry for  
that than Rankine himself  
though I daresay he might not  
have the grace to say so.

In the first place - you all  
spoke of leaving England the  
end of November & I told K.  
that that was your intention  
when he came - & he counted  
on that, & seemed much vexed  
when we got the letter mention-  
ing the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, & said he wd  
have made an effort to go earlier  
had he known - but that now  
it was no use to hurry, & only  
at the time he left we heard  
again of the last week in  
Nov. Besides he did not know  
when he wd go definitely till  
3 days before he sailed, he had  
left a man to collect money  
due to him in Winnipeg &  
also was awaiting Atlas for  
his coal fields from the Pacific  
Co. Co. - people which were slow  
in coming. I which arrived  
the same week he left, the  
choice of the Dominion in place  
of the Maritimes was a pity.

But all that he will find out  
in time I daresay. If the spirit  
of unrest drives him into the  
wilderness of wanderings, he may  
just need the discipline he will  
find there - You will see him  
in spring I think, he intended  
being about 6 months in London

You will have a N. mas on  
sea this year, I suppose, but if  
the Euroclydon leave you in power  
it may not be unpleasant & at  
least will not suggest so many  
home regrets as N. mas on land -  
I hope George will be down this  
week.

Then we must array  
our N. mas - "Stiffners" as Claire  
calls it & already she & the  
others are much concerned about  
that great-festival, I beg me  
day by day, to tell these N. mas  
stories which never seem to  
weary them - I am sorry that

Eric does not - advanced with  
his reading very well I really  
have not the regular time to give  
him that is necessary - he gets  
on with geography & anything  
concerning numbers just like  
upon him, & delights in them, but  
the other is pure task work -

Still, he is not yet 7 so I don't know  
that it matters much -  
I wish you all success &  
happiness in your eastern tour &  
a pleasant N. mas on sea or off

as the case may  
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of the moment  
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