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London?
February 12th. [1873]

My dear Mother:-

Last week's letter, though sent to you, "didn't count". It was but a scrap, so that this one goes to you by proper time. A mail arrived today with one letter from Chattie of Jan. 23rd and some papers.

I dined at the Pellaths on Friday evening, meeting a number of their old friends and spent a very pleasant evening. On Saturday afternoon I paid some long-due calls but nobody was in at either place, so that I got through my calling very quickly. I finished the afternoon by going to see the Misses Bovell and had a long chat with them about West Indian friends. They hear from the Doctor very regularly and report him very busy, having three Parishes to attend and four Sunday services. Browne and I are spending a quiet Sunday together. I went to Christ Church and after dinner took a long walk round Primrose Hill, returning through the Park. The snow has quite disappeared but an occasional flurry with a lowering of the thermometer remind one that it is winter time. London is much agitated just now over the coal question, the price having got up last week to 53 shillings per ton and a still further advance is talked of. As we only have one fire in the morning and evening it dose not fall so heavily, but what the poor will do, if the weather gets much colder, is difficult to say.

Today has been remarkably clear and fine and as it was one of my days at the Brown Institution, I enjoyed the bright view - not often seen - on the river; going up on one of the boats.

I am going to the Sheppards tomorrow evening to meet Lawford Rolph. They are very nice people and have been very kind. I send the "John Bull" of this week to the Pater. Ask him to pass it on to J. Babington. I got it, thinking it would contain a full account of the Athanasian Creed defence meeting, but you will see all about that in last week's "Guardian."

I am glad that you have a "slavy" that promises well; even in England they are not immaculate, judging from the complaints one hears.

Much love to all,

Your most affectionate son,

Willie.

~~Date - 1873 or 1874.~~

~~Brown Institution - you probably know of it.~~