

London. New River

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1881.  
Wednesday morning

My dear Father,

I am now settled in London, & intend to begin work immediately. I took yesterday to look round for lodgings, in order that I might choose as wisely as possible, and get a convenient & a place as was to be had, & after a good deal of investigation decided on this place which is just across Westminster bridge opposite St Thomas' Hospital & only a few doors from where Lawford is staying. 17 Palace road. Albert Embankment. Lambeth will be the address. It is very central, & conveniently situated for the underground, the boats on the river which ply every 5 or 10 minutes, & the buses running in to the city, so there will be no loss of time in getting about. One objection, & as far as I know yet the only objection to it is that it is noisy, but I shall yet get accustomed to this, & of course if I don't like it I may move in a couple of weeks time. Amongst other places I visited Mrs Guest yesterday, & found the old lady still looking hale & hearty, with

2) The reception of a bad cold from which she is suffering. She was very glad to see me, & asked after all their former boarders, & curiously enough even knew my name from having heard George mention it years ago. She was willing to let me have the same old room there, but I thought this would be more convenient: however if I find the noise here at all troublesome I can move over there whenever I like.

Yesterday evening I went up to St. Dunstan's Gate, to shake hands with all three, but was very sorry to find that Lady S. was still confined to her room from a sprain received two or three weeks ago. I saw some of the younger members of the family however who seemed very well; & Mr Vaneck who tells me he has taken rooms near there & will live with them most of the time.

On landing at Liverpool called at Mr Crow's office, found that he had gone to the north end of the docks where I followed him & by little more than a happy chance, found him & accompanied him back to town.

He was quite anxious that I should

3) accompany him north to Louisa, for which he was leaving on the following day to attend Minnie's marriage. All the rest as well as Mr & Mrs Rudolph had gone before. I should very much have liked to go as you may easily believe, but as it would have taken the whole of this week & left me very short of time, I decided to come on at once to London. It is not impossible that Minnie may be here on her way to the continent in which case I may have the opportunity of congratulating her: they have not however yet made it known which way they intend to go.

With London itself I am somewhat disappointed so far. I had always heard ~~so~~ much of it that I expected to see something much more wonderful. Its extent & size are I suppose the most notable

thing & that you cannot easily appreciate. The boats on the river are the only satisfactory way of getting about as far as I can make out. The buses are an unmitigated fraud, & all the names of places are so jumbled to the driver that they don't even understand what you mean if you ask a question. The underground is very well in its way, but the stations are hard to find & the cars very hot & close. Everything too looks rather dingy & grimy even in bright weather which we have enjoyed so far. Of course this is only 1<sup>st</sup> impressions, as I did nothing yesterday but run about from place to place.

With love to all

Ever your affectionate Son

J Rankine.