

London

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Acc. 976

My Dear Mamma.

As the best way to learn mineralogy is to have minerals of your own to handle, we have been hunting about in search of odd specimens or old collections. Yesterday afternoon when drawing was over, I went with young Husley, on a search, in a lot of the back streets & slums, near Soho & Leicester Square. We were unsuccessful in finding any minerals worth having, though we saw some very likely places, in the way of second hand shops & little lapidaries' workshops. It is very curious as has often been observed how very near the good streets in London the low localities are.

In the corners enclosed by Regent Street
& Coventry St, are most-horrible looking
dens, only surpassed I think by the localities
down near the docks, & at the extreme East
End. Some of the fellows have picked up very
good minerals in these places, but I do not
mean to be at much trouble looking for
them, for I think the search wastes more
time than the things are worth when got.

I spent another morning at the British
Museum on Friday, looking over the minerals
& mean to spend at least one more day
there.

Worswurst had a loan of a members ticket
of the Horticultural Gardens, & as the afternoon
was fine, & I had never been there, I
went with Phillips for a walk. I do not
remember but think you must have been
when you were here. At any rate
you would hardly recognize the place
now, for they are making such extensive
alterations

in preparation for the International
Exhibition which is to be held next-May.
Very few flowers are out in the gardens
yet, but there is a very good & large greenhouse
with plenty of space in the middle for a
promenade. Some very pretty Camellias &
Heaths are in flower. In a side gallery
is a sort of permanent exhibition of garden
& greenhouse accessories. There were quite
a number of shapes & patterns of those little
troughs for Cut-flowers, for putting on a
dinner table. which, if I remember right
you had a set of made. Some were in
glass, & some in tin painted green, & they
did not seem to be very dear.

Mrs Etheridge is a good deal better now,
but poor Mrs Etheridge has had another
misfortune. His brother, who was a
traveller for some silk house in the city
died very suddenly at Worcester, He had
written to his wife by the evening post,
just a few hours before his death & was quite
well.

Mr Etheridge was obliged to leave town
immediately to make the necessary arrangements.
Dr Bigsby wrote me a note a few days ago
asking me to go to dine with him tomorrow
evening, & afterwards to the Geographical Socy.
He also asked me to tell him how Mrs
Etheridge was, & to give him Sir W. E. Logan's
address. I almost judge the evening now
that the examination is at hand, but had to
accept, hoping that I would have no more
invitations till after the exam. I enquired from
every one at Fernyffe if they knew Sir
W. E. L's address but could not get it, &
wrote off to tell him so. Just after I had
sent off the note who should come into the
Library but Logan himself. He says he has
been staying in Wales, & has only a few days
ago come to town.

With love to yourself Anna &
all at home, believe me
your affectionate son
Geo.