

London April 14. 72

Acc. 976

My dear mamma.

I have to thank you for the copy of "Lord Bantam" sent by last mail. I have read it & like it very much on the whole, it is a very clever satire.

I was quite surprised to see part of my "Thanking" letter reproduced in the Gazette had I known it was for publication I should have taken more pains over it. Nees's translation of that book on music seems very good, though I must confess I have not read it through.

Yesterday afternoon a most unexpected calamity took place. I was just thinking what a good evening I would have with no notes to write, & had planned out a lot of work I determined not to trifle when who should appear at the School of mines but the Eyell's



maidservant with a note, saying that they unexpectedly had a spare ticket for the opera & hoped I would come & dine with them & go there. Unfortunately I had no excuse & so had to go. Dinner was about half past six. The party consisted of Sir C & Lady Lyell, a German professor from one of the smaller universities there called — Leonard Lyell, & a charming Yankee girl, a Miss Prescott & I believe a grand daughter of the historian of that name. She had lived in Paris & become so acclimated that really you could hardly tell her from an English person — even by her language.

After dinner Mrs Lyell her youngest son, & daughter appeared & all set out together for the opera with the exception of Sir C. who thinks every light tries his eyes too much.

The piece was "Fille du Regiment" it was very well given, & as I recognized some of the music as it came was interesting. The marionette who is one of the newest



& last Sundays took the principal part  
& dit it very well.

Sir C. & Lady Lyell leave tomorrow for the  
Continent where they are going for a trip  
of a month or so. Miss Lyells middle  
son has gone to ~~South~~ <sup>North</sup> ~~West~~ <sup>West</sup> Argentine  
Confederation (I think) in S America to take  
up sheep farming for two years, & longer if he  
likes. They have not as yet received news  
of his arrival there.

I have just received a Suit of Clothes from  
Cathie. Since the weather has become warmer  
I have been finding the want of summer  
clothes. I am very well pleased with  
them. I don't think I have been very extravagant-  
in that line as I got my last suit about  
this time last year & have only had a  
pair of trousers since.

I have been racking the utmost recesses of my  
brain for anything else of the least interest  
or importance, & having failed to find  
anything amuse for the present close, though



No doubt I will presently recall to the  
end of things. Please thank Rankine &  
Eve for their nice letters & last visit.

Your long son George.

P.S. I should like when I come to bring out-  
Some little presents I would be very much  
obliged if you could give me any hints on  
the subject.