

London Dec 20
1869.

Xmas holidays,
dinner with Sir Lyell
museums visited

Dear Anna,

I have to acknowledge another bundle of letters from home, which has just arrived, many thanks for your regularity in writing & the interesting matters which your letters always contain. I have also to thank you very much for the necktie & Cuffs which you sent me, they were quite a surprise on Christmas morning.

I have been having quite a gay time in the holidays. On Friday last, the day before & was of the first of the holidays I made an excursion to the tower & monument. I went by underground to Westminster & then by boat to London Bridge. The tower is certainly well worth seeing, then

Please note that I am very much obliged to her for the very nicely worked present she sent me. M.D.

Are so many old historical
antiquities & localities in it.
But then it is one of those places
where you are hunted through
by a guardian who explains the

objects. I also saw the replica of
the Kohinoor (excuse the spelling)
diamond. Some of the inscriptions
on the walls of the prison in the
tower are very curious. There are some
quite ornate carvings, coats of arms &c
done by prisoners confined there.

I went up to the top of the Monument
but had not a very fine view
as it was not clear. On Xmas
day I only went out for a short
walk in the afternoon, & then dressed
& went to dinner at Sir Collyer's.

It was quite a family party.
(About 10 altogether) was very
pleasant & not very late.

On Sunday evening I went to a
P.B. hall near here of which Christina

gave me the address, but was not much pleased. The congregation was only 52 in number, in a small stuffy hall, & presented a typical series of the same old faces always observed in such places. (Talk of the uniformity of Roman Catholicism, after observing the flat uniformity of P.B. Congregations!) The speaker was I suppose appointed to that post because his head was bald in the same place as Mr. Darby & his head of the same cut. Certainly not for his powers as an orator.

On Monday, I went with Jan Gust to the Crystal Palace. It was "Boxing day" & I only went to see the crowd. I had a very good chance of doing so as there was nearly 40,000 people there. On Tuesday I went to the South Kensington museum in the afternoon & to Dr. Carpenter, in the evening, to dinner. He had a small dinner party & then some more people came in the evening & raised the

number to about 30. It was very pleasant. I left as early as I could but did not get home till long past twelve, as I came by underground & being the last train, & having to change at Baker St. There were many delays. Yesterday I went to call at Col Lyell's & return the Chemistry which he ^{has} was kind enough to lend me, but which he now requires himself.

I afterwards called at the Davises & they asked me to stay for tea, which I did.

They had asked two or three friends (or relatives I think) to tea. Their daughter is somewhat better, though still very delicate. He was in the room & took tea with us, but went to bed early. I got home by 9 o'clock. I intend to send by this mail if I have time to do it up a brooch (B) from the Crystal Palace for Eva. Please excuse the monotony of this letter & believe me, with best love to all at home & to yourself in

particulars.

Your affectionate brother
George W. Dawson

Many thanks for the photo.