

April 170

Rew gardens

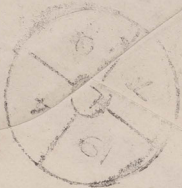


Miss Dawson

Mc Gill College

Montreal

Canada.



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This letter this  
 morning if there is  
 any mail (Canada & Co)  
 without waiting for  
 the Canadian mail  
 as usual, so that  
 you may have the  
 earliest news. I'd  
 say Mamma & Papa  
 will arrive in time  
 to write you by that  
 mail themselves.  
 With very best love  
 your affectionate  
 brother  
 George.

London. April 17. 1870.

Amusing  
 description of  
 Kew gardens

My Dear Anna,

Have you ever been at Kew?

I don't remember whether you went there  
 when you were here. At any rate I went  
 there last Friday & enjoyed myself very  
 much. Our Easter holidays consist of  
 Thursday & Friday of last week & Monday of this (tomorrow)  
 & so I have been roving about a little.

I went to Kew with Mr. Fisson. We  
 started about two o'clock & went up there  
 by steamboat. The sail took about  
 an hour & a half & as the day was  
 beautiful was very enjoyable. As it was  
 Good Friday the boat was crowded with  
 people out on holiday. You don't seem  
 to be able to get into the country  
 near London at all, for all the way  
 up the river even as far as Kew, both

banks are covered with factories,  
walls, & houses. There are lots of pine  
trees however, now just beginning to  
become green, & many swans floating  
about on the muddy water.

To get to the gardens after landing at  
Kew you have to pass ~~the~~ over, or beside  
Kew green, & here hundreds & hundreds  
of people were enjoying themselves  
in a rougher way than is allowed  
in the gardens. Waltzing to crooked  
fiddles & wheezy accordions, playing  
at "kiss in the ring" & eating  
ferrywinkles, shrimps, & oranges, ad lib.  
In the gardens themselves all  
was propriety & order, not even  
smoking being allowed. In the  
various green houses there were  
many beautiful flowers & the palm-  
house was magnificent, though I think,

not much, if any larger than  
that which we saw at Edinburgh.  
Mr Fisson being rather corpulent was  
nearly melted by the heat in the  
latter place, & so of course I proposed to  
enjoy it & insisted on going up  
the winding stairs to the gallery which  
runs round near the roof.

What I specially admired was the  
bamboos, their foliage is so light & graceful.  
There are two museums in the gardens  
both of which we visited. When we  
were returning to the boat many people  
were getting their tea at the so called  
tea gardens, which are attached to  
many of the houses, but which  
I should rather call tea back-yards  
filled with benches & tables, "Hot water  
two pence a head". The sail down the  
river was also very pleasant & the  
boat not so crowded as on the way up

The swans settling themselves to sleep on the mud-banks which the receding tide had left. I have wondered why they ~~were~~ are not often stolen or killed, but it seems that it is 14 years transportation to injure the precious birds.

Yesterday I went down to Woolich & had a short dig at the fossils there & a pleasant ~~dig~~ sail up & down, or rather down & up.

April 19. Tuesday

Mamma & Papa have arrived at Londonderry after a very quick & I hope pleasant passage.

I received a telegram from Papa last night which reads as follows. "London derry ten Monday evening all well Liverpool Tuesday five or Wednesday morning will telegraph on arrival" & which no doubt should read. "Londonderry ten Monday evening, all well, Liverpool Tuesday night or Wednesday morning &c". So that I will probably receive another telegram late tonight or tomorrow morning, & I should think they will be here by tomorrow evening. I shall send off