



London April 20. 71.

My dear Anna

I have just finished reading my budget of letters which arrived this morning. Thanks for your long & interesting contribution.

Spring seems to be coming with you unusually early this year. I should almost fear that there would be a return of cold weather before the winter had can make up its mind to go away.

Before the Easter Holidays were over I spent a day in paying a visit to the Crystal Palace. Everything was looking very spring like

17.05.1880  
pretty, & there was a great crowd  
of people there. I went up the  
great tower on top of which the tank  
for the fountains is placed & as it  
was a fine day got a very  
good view over all the surrounding  
country. All sorts of amusements  
were going on in the grounds & it  
was great fun to watch the people  
amusing themselves. One rather  
curious contrivance, was a sort of  
circular velocipede. A circle of  
iron rails was laid down, & on it  
a circular carriage, composed of  
numerous segments each of which  
had a pair of driving wheels like a

seated a few seats. The people  
loosed their fence & then mounted up, &  
when the apparatus was full enough,  
at a given signal a man standing  
in the middle of the ring began to play an  
organ, & everybody commenced working  
at their treadles, so that in a short time  
the annular carriage was going  
round at great speed.

I have seen lately a very good idea  
in the way of a fire escape. It consists  
of a long canvas tube of sufficient size  
having an iron rod bent round the  
mouth at one end to support it.

The ends of the iron rod are fastened  
into some sort of strong catches in  
the window sill, & then any one  
wishing to get out, steps into the

take at the top & slides down to  
the bottom, some person in the street  
holding out the lower end from the  
wall. The person coming down  
regulates the speed of descent by  
pressing their elbows & knees against  
the sides of the tube. Twice lately I have  
seen these things being tried from  
the top storeys of houses.

Please excuse this rather  
prosaic & stupid letter, as  
I am feeling rather dull  
this morning & not in  
good frame for writing.

I believe me as ever  
your loving brother

George



April 17/ London  
Crystal Palace  
New fire escape

Miss Dawson

M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Colley  
Montreal  
Canada





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