

I began with the intention
 of thanking you for your
 very pretty picture, but
 I am gone on & on till
 I had almost forgotten.
 I like it very much &
 thank no judge, think
 it very well done.
 The only thing I see to
 criticize, & that will
 probably I hope be more
 flattering than unflattering
 admiration, is the sky.
 The clouds if any are
 a little massive.
 your letters are capital
 were they drawn on
 transfer paper?

My Dear Anna

Many thanks for your

last letter, inclusive of the scolding.

You see I get so tired of writing all
 about myself, & hate the sight of the numerous

I's covering the paper. If I was
 accompanied even by a dog I think
 I should use we.

The opera which
 you ask about was the Huguenots

& was very pleasant to see & listen to.

Some of the best singers (hoping their
 names may be spelt approximately right)

were Mlle Liliens. Trahelli Batini. &

Leuz Foli & others, names forgotten.

Trahelli Batini I think I liked best,

She made a Capital page Urbano.
The singing was of course all in
Italian but we had English translations
to read from when we liked. It was
rather absurd in one place just as
the Huzumots & other soldiers were
going to fight, to see a whole troop of
Ballad-girls rush in & separate them,
& then soldiers & all began to dance.

On Monday Ev'last I took dinner
at Collyells. It was quite quiet - only
Sir C & Lady Lyell besides myself. Sir C
went home early on account of the his
eyes which are hurt by much night-light,
& then we played various games
till about half past ten. Lady Lyell
kindly took me as far as the
Portland Road Underground station,
on her way home. She also presented

me with a little Callender with changing
Cards. Mrs Lyell was so kind as to give
me a very pretty little ink bottle with
closing top. Mrs L. asked me to come
again next evening if I liked to a Charade
Party, & also on New Years day. I
got out of the Charade party as it
is rather a bore to go twice to the same place
on consecutive evenings, & I meant to
do some reading. Tuesday morning
I began to read, but being boxing day
all the shops were closed & the streets
like Sunday, everybody going about in
their best clothes. Mrs Just also who
is taking her Xmas out in a jaunt at
Bromley was coughing like a good one
in her room. So under the combination
of circumstances I started off, & went
to the Crystal Palace about 2, o'clock.
I spent the afternoon & had some tea
there in the midst of a boisterous multitude

got back here by 8 o'clock & did a good
evening's work. There was a grand
Pantomime but I did not go in for
"Reserved seats &c" but had a look at the
new aquarium which is well worth
seeing. I afterwards saw part of the
final transformation scene of the Pantomime
by standing on top of one of the refreshment
tables. There was a huge waterfall with
any amount of real water coming down
over a hill of about 1000 feet high
among palms, ferns &c &c. They had a
decorated bust of the Prince of Wales in
front & played God bless the P of W
on the organ as a finale, (incorred of
course). The library at Ferny Hill
is now open again. I was there yesterday
& am gone off as soon as I finish
these letters. Please thank Eva very
much for her illuminated Card.
With love. Your affd brother
George