

66 Lancaster Gate -

Thursday June 30th 80

Letter from
won. speaking of
English society, life

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My dearest Anna,

Really England is a delightful
place to visit but I would not for
the world live here. Everything is
so perfectly new & delightful but the
Gals all say that it is impossible
ever to make friends here. Everyone
is an acquaintance. But I must
tell you what I have been doing
since last I wrote from Liverpool. -
Last Friday as I told you I think,
I travelled for up from L'pool to London.
I was alone but got on beautifully
all the way. Kate & Amy met me
at the station & we drove home
arriving just in time for dinner
(We dine at 7.30.) Lady G & Sir G. T. were

going out to dine but I saw them
before they started - Mrs Wood (Lady G's
sister) is staying here now but I believe
she leaves soon - On Saturday we
went to see the Dore Gallery - I do so
wish you & all have seen it - His
angels are beautiful - I was a little
disappointed however to find that only
a few of his pictures were exhibited
some of his Inferno - or Ancient Mexican
pictures - I learned for the first time
too that Dore did Landscapes - In the
afternoon there was a tremendous
thunder storm, i.e. for here I have
often seen far worse ones - Sir A. T. Lady G.
& Amy notwithstanding went to a
large entertainment given by the
Gendarm Guards in the house or
rather palace built by Baron Grant.
It was supposed to be a garden party
but as it rained everyone crowded
into the house - The Galt's carriage had

to fall into line about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from
the house & they were exactly one hour
in line crawling towards the place. You
know that everyone must just take their
turn & cannot pass any other carriage in
front. Finally they resolved to walk the
remainder of the way as they got on so
slowly. When they reached the door
for some time they c^d not get in, finally
by pushing they managed to get once
through the drawing room & then
force their way back to the carriages -
They saw no one that they knew. This
is what the English call pleasure -!
There were over 2000 people there, all
grandees - It seems to be the rule here
to ask about twice as many people as
your house can possibly hold. This
same same evening (Saturday) Lady & Sir A. J
went to dinner & had to wait one hour
for a lady & gent. who c^d not get away
from the Garden party of the afternoon -

After this dinner they drove back here for Amy & went to a reception given by the speaker of the House - but ~~did~~ not get in - They found that at 12.30 o'clock they were still in line about half a mile from the place - These are the sorts of accounts brought home to us - Are they not dreadful? Fortunately Katie is seldom asked so of course we stay at home & only hear of the others adventures - But I have taken far too much space & time already without saying what I myself have been doing - On Sunday Amy, Katie & I went by underground railway to the Temple Church. We had an order for 3 seats in the choir & so were very near the front & I see beautifully when we stood up but all the seats have such high backs that no one can see anything (but the roof) when seated - Dr Vaughan preached very well - You know the church is a very old one.

& has all the old Temples buried there -
 When we came out almost the first person
 I saw was - I who do you think? the Right
 Hon. Mr Pelham! - But sad to say he did
 not see us & marched close by us without
 the slightest sign of recognition - We all
 felt so indignant w^d have spoken to
 him but as he was walking with another
 gentleman we c^d not summon up courage
 enough - We walked along by the Thames
 embankment & saw Cleopatra's needle &
 several other things in passing - Cleopatra's
 needle is far smaller than I expected -
 In fact you w^d hardly notice it - Its only
 interest is its age - When we got home we
 found Jack Lawford who had been
 invited to dinner & in the evening we
 went to hear Mr Boyd Carpenter but
 were unfortunate enough to hear only the
 Curate - name unknown - After service
 it being quite light we went for a short
 walk in the Kensington Gardens - There

with Hyde Park form the most delightful
park. I had no idea that they were so
large. In there you ed imagine that you
were hundreds of miles from a city -
We had a most delightful time on Monday.
Sir A. T. had got a pass to visit St Thomas'
Hospital & so Lady G. Mrs Wood. Amy. Katie
& I all went. You have also to be introduced
by some doctor of the house - so Lady G.
had arranged to meet a Mrs Skay
there who intimately knew a Dr Baynes.
Mrs Skay is a Toronto lady & was a Miss
Cumberland daughter of Col. C. - She is very
pleasant & pretty - This Dr Baynes knows
all the Baynes of Montreal but does not
seem to be a relative. He too comes from
Toronto but has lived here for two years.
He also knew Dr Miller & Dr Buller & others
so seemed quite like an old friend -
He went round the wards with us &
also introduced us to Dr Mc Kellan who
is supposed to be very clever - We passed

through several of the words & also saw the
Nightingale Home. After this we went to
see Westminster Abbey where strange to
say we met the Dows of Montreal. The Abbey
as you know is perfect but it is utterly
impossible to see it at one time. We hope
to go back again. We also saw the House
of Commons & then drove up & down Bedford &
Regent streets while Lady G. shopped.
After this we drove home & changed our
clothes preparatory to going to the Park.
Everyone that is anyone goes to drive there
from 6 to 7.30 every evening. They said that
the day we went that there were very
few there for there was a grand cricket
match at the same time but I never saw
so many carriages at once before. And the
dresses! You cannot imagine the things some
people had on. White satin dresses are
quite common. No one seems to think of
talking as they drive. They only sit & stare
at the others. We were particularly

fortunate & saw the Princess of Wales
twice beautifully she was driving alone
with the Prince of the Helens - The Galls
never met her driving before although they
are often in the Park - In the evening after
dinner at the Galls for a wonder had
no engagements Lady G. - Amy & Katie all
put on their court dresses & we had a
mock court. I was the Queen, Mrs Wood
the P. of Wales & Mrs Wood the Princess of
Wales - Their dresses are magnificent. It
is such a pity that they are not be presented
at Court for no one is supposed to appear
here in society who has not been at Court
& so very often only Sir G. F. is invited & not
even Lady G. - You see people do not know
that there is a wife & daughters - But
Lady G. is on an average at about 3 places
every day - so you may imagine she has
plenty of society - On Tuesday we went
on an excursion to Richmond & New
Gardens - Have you ever been there?

You know how gardens are acknowledged to be the finest in the world & really it is impossible to imagine anything finer. The whole place is enchanted. But I have not time to describe all we saw for you see I have already written a great deal. We returned about 7 o'clock in the evening & Katie & I stayed at home while the others went off to dinner & then to a reception. Katie & I enjoyed ourselves I am sure much more than the others for as you may imagine we were rather tired after our long excursion & we were very comfortably sitting in easy chairs on the gallery.

Yesterday morning Katie & I went for a shopping expedition but did not do much as we had to return by twelve & the distances are so long here. We had to return to meet Miss Ford who went with us to walk in Kotten Row. This is the thing to do between twelve & two - some ride but most walk or sit. I in my ignorance thought that we were

to go to see the ladies but I found that everyone only looked at those walking & sitting. They all crowd up into one end where it is almost impossible to get a chair & stare & are stared at. I do so wish Mother & you c^d have been with us. The dresses were a perfect show. Some had on white & cream coloured silks short but with elbow sleeves & the most astonishing hats. It is also a fashion here to wear a different coloured body from the skirt. In fact you c^d wear anything without being remarkable. Everyones object in dressing seems to be to be very noticeable - It is of no consequence whether the dress be pretty or not. We stayed in the Row until about two & then returned to lunch. In the afternoon it being Wednesday we stayed at home to receive visitors.

Lady G. had to go out with Sir A. T. to a garden party at the Duke of Argyles so

Army & I received Katie having gone to sleep
up stairs - There were ever so many
callers several of whom we found knew
Montreal friends - One a Mrs Harding is
Niece of Bishop Oxenden - In the evening
Sir G. T. & Lady G. went to dine at the Duke
(I think) of Norfolk's & in the evening
called for Army to go to a reception at
the Duke of Devonshire's - Mr (ie. Mrs & Mrs
Wood, Katie & I) went to an entertainment
at the Royal Botanical Gardens - Col. Bernard
sent us tickets - It was supposed to be
highly select although there must have
been 2 or 3000 there - All the gardens were
beautifully lit up - Gas jets on every tree
& in festoons between them also around
every flower bed - The green houses too
were brilliantly lighted up & the whole place
looked like fairy-land - There was a
lake at one side with innumerable lights
of different colours floating on it - Besides
all these ~~there~~ every few minutes red &

blue lights were burned. We saw the
Duke & Princess of Teck & several other
grandees & returned home about 12 o'clock.
This morning as you see I am writing but
I must soon stop as it is near lunch time
& as there are visitors expected I must
dress. In the afternoon we are to go to an
entertainment at Mrs Lord's. She is considered
a great swell & I suppose we will see
Dukes & Countesses be be -

I suppose that you are all completely settled
at Nutis now. Please give my love to Mrs
Sarpentier & Bili Mejer & also Eleanor if
she is at Nutis - I am writing to you instead
of to Mother this week - but of course you will
tell her the news & that I am quite well &
happy. I only wish I could know definitely when
George sails so as to arrange when to go
to Edinburgh. Mrs Pettigrew seems to expect
me to stay there for about a month which is
absurd. With very best love to Mother &
yourself & hoping that the children
are quite well & happy
Your loving sister
Evelyn