



Lyons - December 9<sup>th</sup> 1883

My dearest Anna

Let's in our travelling, which is  
intended to be pretty constant as present,  
I shall use the weekly mail I write a few words  
from this place which we intend to leave tomorrow  
morn. at 4 1/2. We have been entirely surprised  
by the coldness of the weather. Throughout our  
week at Paris it was colder than London  
had been, & the day before we left, while visiting  
a wretchedly cold museum a dense storm of  
wind & hail occurred there whitened all  
the country around, & this we confidently  
expected it to be warmer so much farther south  
as this is, instead we find it intensely frosty  
& as an act of necessity purchased woollen caps  
to keep our ~~our~~ hands from freezing, not to keep  
muffs, although Eve & I have on quite as many  
wraps as we shall have on the coldest day in Canada.  
We left Paris at 7 1/2. Arriving morn. & made the 12 hours  
journey most comfortably finding it a rest after

our unceremonious light-seeing in Paris. To yesterday  
 found no fresh to start with renewed zest  
 in this further field. After breakfast, as  
 is our habit, the two made their way to the  
 geological museum where one saw many  
 more things of interest to us than usual. Father  
 too was greatly delighted. but as he expected to get  
 the additional pleasure of the Company of the  
 Caractors about 2 P.M. at 12 he consented to  
 take us to the top of Saurimere a precipitous & steep  
 high hill upon the top of wh: is an ancient Church  
 & a handsome new one wh: is not quite finished.  
 We made the first part of the ascent in a rail-  
 way hauled up by a rope. Still afterwards we  
 had a long ascent wh: well have however am-  
 ply repaid the toil had the day been clear but  
 a foggy mist hung over the city - still glimpses  
 were very fine & we got a distinct general view  
 of the city & its two fine rivers. We took our standing  
 lunch - coffee & cakes, on the main road up to this  
 old Church wh: contains a celebrated wonder-working  
 virgin. While there the whole road was filled with

one continuous stream of women, some companions  
of them singing some praying as they toiled up to the  
highest point - poor heathens these we were, until  
we asked the domaselle in waiting why such crowds  
were passing, she did not know that it was the  
day of the Immaculate Conception! Up they came more  
& more so that we, against the stream, could hardly make  
our way down. Back at last however we got to  
the music where I found his friend & E. & I strayed  
off to a picture gallery under the same roof. where we  
wandered as long as the light would - joining papa  
again just as he too was ready to leave. On the  
way back to our hotel we heard some hints of  
an illumination which we were full of curiosity to  
see so we no sooner reached the hotel than we  
lay down for about an hour - awaiting dinner -  
which is at 6.30, & immediately after sallied forth again  
with shawls over our heads & round our throats it  
was so cold. By this light we were more than  
repaid, <sup>for our trouble</sup> it was so novel & so beautiful that we  
were perfectly charmed. It is impossible to describe  
what we saw, I shall only attempt one scene as  
we stood on the farther side of the river - some

4  
from the Sauniers. where both the alt & the new  
Churches were beautifully illuminated. but everything being  
shrouded in darkness these looked like fiery paths  
high in the heavens, about their base, still very high  
lines & streaks of light. then the zig-zag paths like sta-  
tionary lightning. & an another zig-zag path, parallel  
to the right, a procession with flambeaux ascended  
while a tenor lower showed many designs such  
as pictorous - "Credo". "Mariae merch de die". "Mitres &c.  
low a grand sweep of tall buildings with strings  
of lamps or Chinese lanterns from every window.  
One perceived the time of the general bright-  
ness. But the wonderful feature was, that the  
whole of this illuminated hill looked as if it rose  
above the horizon high into the sky. After traversing  
several of the illuminated streets, through which flowed  
all Lyons we reached again our Swiss hotel &  
tumbled into bed a tired trio. & whispering let me  
take care, it was well nigh ten hours we finished  
breakfast this morn. but we reached a French Protestant  
Church by 10.30. where I really enjoyed the beautiful  
singing & caught what I cd of a spirited sermon. Tomorrow  
we are to be called at 3.30 & to leave the hotel at 4.30 on  
route for Turin. Do you think I am justified in holding

P.S. I wrote to Mrs. Tenace Bank  
 last week to congratulate her  
 about Eleanor, but my impression  
 is that it was a failure & worse  
 than it will give offence as I  
 ventured to advise that the pair  
 should have a home of their own.  
 I shall be sorry if I have offended  
 the advice was a surmise in Eleanor  
 & Mr. Spots interests & the result of a  
 talk with Mrs. Pele about them.  
 She intended to get her husband  
 to advise the same course. Saying  
 that she should do so herself there with

be a special reason that the  
opposite line shd be chosen.

Warford Mappett remarked  
that S. & Lally have well never  
got on together. That the attempt  
ad only result in failure. Don't  
however use either of these names  
in speaking to any one, but shd.  
Mrs R. say anything <sup>discreetly</sup> of my letter. May  
be that he would be feeling so.

I hope I may be able to get a presence  
here <sup>on the side</sup> per clearance but we have seen  
nothing new except in glass & China the  
worst thing as there is too much picking  
cluty &c. That seems per in the future  
Mathew.