

message to Lady S. it pains
me to treat her thus coldly
after her penitence & kind
ness. but my heart rather has
been than pain S. but if you
think right will you please
say what is best to her.
Also a lovely message to
Mrs. M. & family. I have not
written to her since I received
letter after Anne was settled.
I am awfully afraid I have
forgotten her by writing to plain
about the children being allowed to go to
Paris home. Mrs. P.R. wanted to
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that doing so will accept all of it.
 Our visit to Rome is nearly over
 as we leave perhaps at 7. tomorrow
 which means called at 5.30. We have
 certainly worked hard at night during
 & the very cold weather we have here
 ever since coming to the Continent
 having followed us here has enabled
 us to do this hitherto with impunity.
 I have often been very tired but a
 long night's sleep seems to restore my
 strength & enable me to start fresh
 as each day returns. It was most amus-
 ing to see & see your remark about
 sunny skies, genial warmth & time for
 thoughts, are only lost is a long journey.
 The museums are the break-benches, but
 we are travelling with a naturalist. Here
 there is much of real interest, distant days
 side up with the business of life & whatever
 lack or gap one has in their knowledge is

is at once fully supplied on application to Papa. The Colosseum - The Forum - The Palatine, on wh. are the massive ruins of the palaces of the Caesars, have now taken life & form in my mind. One forenoon was spent in the Catacombs. wh. are with this clump, dirty mass close as I had expected. Papa found much to charm some Jesuits Chaplains ^{herbes} in comprehending them to be deeply interested. He tried a little bribery to obtain any tablets out of hundreds piled up, but the man was staunch to his trust - indeed he deemed the right man in the right place, as when he found Papa no ordinary visitor but able to decipher Characters & anxious to see as much as possible he showed an answering enthusiasm, brushing the dust off fallen slabs taking us into unvisited corners & willing to stay all day if we chose. The Catacombs are about four miles out of the City & most of the distance is over the Appian way. We returned to visit St. Peter's Chapel where three sides of a large Court has the earliest forms of slabs

embedded, chronologically, in the plaster
 of the walls. There it was literally called out
 interesting to me so we strayed into an
 immense series of rooms ornamented
 with had frescoes & mostly had pictures.
 We turned out at 4. the hour of closing.
 This was in the lateral gallery connected
 with the Church. but I must not go on
 giving more bits of plans seen, better use
 gave to a guide book. As a whole it has
 been a most instructive pleasant visit.
 It will have interested you muchly today
 to walk, as I & I did, on the Pincio (Public
 gardens on a hill where gentle & simple
 flock on fine afternoons) to see Roman
 nurses with English children. They seem
 to me with tulips as to which will be the
 brightest. One was dressed with a
 brilliant blue gown, trimmed with a
 broad band of gold lace round the skirt
 & on the waist. a beautiful lace apron.

a small white Crape Shawl. A sack hanging
 on the side, also fringed with gold. & for head
 dress a very broad ribbon, very fully plaited
 in the middle & put round the head like
 a wreath & fastened at the back with a
 gold skewer, with a bow of blue ribbon
 & a white rose fastened on one side of
 the skewer. The baby was clothed in a pale
 pink broad satin trimmed with swan's
 down. Another nurse had pale blue & white
 Check with brilliant orange Caloured trimings.
 The babies of the Station ladies are known by
 their legs being swathed together & carried on
 Cushions. Then there were many officers & some
 Station Country women with their picturesque
 dress familiar to you from pictures. I regret
 much however to say that the Common people
 of the City were ragged madmen dress. So our
 only accessibly meet with the pretty native
 costume. I return to the Pincio it was a very
 promenade. The band plays daily from 4 to 6
 down & generally the King & Queen drive ^{there} _{then}

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these hours. There is a splendid view of
part of the city from the highest part of the
hill & as we had not seen it even & I
excused ourselves from Jap's bible lesson
so he gave this afternoon at the Pres: Church
& instead walked up to the top & back to the
hotel. On our return we looked into the
garden of the hotel wh. like many other
pieces of ground around here, is full
of orange, lemon & Citron trees filled with
fruit. Enormous Cacti, different species,
Cyclops oaks, palms & Acacias. At Clarence
what hills sides were covered with
alines so that already we are becoming
familiar with trees & plants that I had thought
we wd first meet in the East. It surprises
us how such vegetation ^{AN} thrives so low a tem-
perature. Jap's hands are covered with
Philbaia & Jap also has something suspicious
like them on his feet. I am either more
hardy or more careful I wear moccasins
gaiters and moccasins sticking so hard out
doors & in

besides the last two cups going to China
 with the wooden slippers Miss Lum gave
 me my slippers, the stone flowers chill
 me so quickly. Very true her things have
 been the comfort of my life. This reminds
 me of another thing wh: you need not
 tell her. Before I received your letter
 I had purchased a bracelet for her. But she
 really not want it I may either make it
 a present to her or I am sure I can easily
 find a purchaser. & this leads to the subject
 of shopping, for sometimes we have to per-
 lustre after the flesh-pots as to look into the
 windows, but a strange event occurred
 yesterday - Japu proposed that we sh^d devote
 an hour to make some purchases: a consid-
 erably long hour found us possessed of an
 old Chinese base of bronze. A small pair of genuine
 old Roman pottery. A piece of clay face found in
 a tomb. garnet bracelet & a pair of silver bracelets
 the last two being Xmas presents for E. & self. I don't
 think there are now so tempting things to be found
 for unless you can afford very expensive jewellery.

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or house accounts. There is nothing tempting
or portable at moderate prices. I have constantly
been peeping into toy shops & have not seen one
new toy. After all London, as George says, is the best
mart.

Papa asks me to thank you for your letter
to him & I add my own most grateful thanks
it was a most wise & well-judged advice & I think
it already is bearing good fruit - dear Rankin,
I am so thankful to have you to speak well of
him. What you said has softened papa more
than anything else. I raised my hopes there &
may yet see him settled with some prospect
of making an honourable living for himself.
I don't brood over family trials circumstances
sometimes bring up sad thoughts for a while
& again I am wholly occupied with new things.
Florence & Rome have certainly excited some
enthusiasms in me I only hope it may last
until I have time to read & make some per-
manent use of my news but crude facts.

Give Edith many thanks for her kind remembrance
of me. I had hoped to write myself to Eric but it is now
too late. Dear baby all you say of his reminds me of
Edith's - you have often heard me say that she & he were
such good children. I have never seen the smallest