

Approaching Singapore

Dec^r 25th 84.

My dear Anna,

Your welcome letter, dateless as usual, but enclosing note from Mother of Nov^r 4th, was forwarded by the "Thames" and reached me at Colombo, just too late to be acknowledged at the time.

I sincerely trust that your family crisis has been happily & successfully got over, & shall look forward anxiously for further & more definite information on the Subject. It is a mistake to indulge and unfavourable apprehensions which are too frequently the forerunners, if not the causes, of unfortunate mishaps.

3) happy year to her.

I have very little in the way of news: yesterday, I sent to hospital at Penang, four stewards, who had managed to acquire in Bombay what they are pleased to call their "malarial" typhoid, and who developed unmistakable signs of the disease about a week after we had left that port. The symptoms are in many ways characteristic, but undergo unusual & unexpected remissions & exacerbations which might be puzzling, if one were not familiar with the remarkable modifications of this affection, to be met with in different parts of the world. The Penang hospital is a remarkably

fine & well managed institute
under Govt, and interesting
as having been lately occupy
by the Misers Crew, about
whom so much talk & so
many negotiations took place

In running away from
England as we have been
doing for the past month or
more, we get little news
except telegraphic of what
is taking place in the world
at large - China & France
seem more hopelessly at
loggerheads than ever, and
it may be our good fortune
to see something of the Goings-
on although hardly likely.
I know nothing of what you
are about in Montreal, but
hope that you will put a string
& a stamp on a paper for
me occasionally if anything

special crops up.

By the way, I suppose George's plans for next spring are quite unsettled as yet. If he goes via Winnipeg I want to ask him to be so good as to look up for me some traps left there on my departure. Two boxes at Caldwell's "Wops Dry Wall", and two with "Lot and Mitchell" druggists, to be enquired for on arrival & to be brought back to Montreal in autumn with his own things, if he will undertake it. They contain books, instruments medicines &c. and are safe enough I have no doubt, but I do not care to leave them too long without caring them in case they should forget to whom they belong, or get tired of housing them.

6)

Give my kindest regards
 & best wishes to Bernard,
 & if there are any old
 fashioned friends who
 still have a dim recollection
 that there used to be
 one more member of the
 family, than they are
 now in the habit of meeting
 remember me to them!

Give my love to
 each and all of the
 children, and believe me,
 Ever your affectionate
 brother

Franklin

2) It is now too late, I fear, to
express good wishes for Christmas,
but I have still time to
send all manner of kindly
& sincere hopes for a very
prosperous & happy new year,
to you & yours. To me, it
seems somewhat odd to
be spending this season of
the year in the midst of
tropical heat and vegetation,
but so many things are
novel & so many changed,
that ~~past~~ recollections
of a happy careless boyhood,
& whatnot, seem more like
the dim veiled visions of
some previous state of
existence, than like the
remembrance of actual
events.

Give my best wishes to Mrs. Car-
penter. I hope I am sure that
85. may prove a bright &