

London, June 21st 1885

Dearest Love,

I think I wrote to you last from Manchester and will try to take up the thread there. After writing I went to call upon Prof. Williamson & fortunately found him at home and as he urged me very strongly I remained for lunch. (Mrs Williamson I saw only for a few moments, as the little boy had scarlet fever and she had to remain with him. The little fellow was nearly well and indeed the case had been a very mild one. They were very anxious to know all about you, and whether you were like Eva, &c. &c. Of course I gave them full particulars and told them that though you were in some respects like your sister you were vastly superior to her (this you need not read to Eva). Prof. W. has a most interesting little garden a regular botanic garden in fact, with plants from all parts of the world. Almost the first things which caught my eyes were the primrose which we have at Metz (*Primula farinosa*) and the little *Pinguicula* or Butterwort, both in full bloom. I need not say that they carried me in thought at once

right across the Atlantic, and I fancied that I saw you & the little ones picking them as Mintis. I shall always be fond of Primula farinosa and of Pinguicula too, notwithstanding its objectionable name.

I left ~~Oxford~~^{Manchester} on Wednesday afternoon and got to Oxford at 9 o'clock in the train. On the way we passed Wolverhampton & Birmingham, looking blacker & smokier than ever. How people live (or at any rate how they live) with any degree of health in such an abominable atmosphere is a marvel. Oxford looks very much as when I saw it last, though of course the town has grown somewhat & considerable additions have been made to the college buildings.

The morning after I arrived there I went to deliver to Mrs Hunter the parcel which I brought from her daughter Mrs W. Evans of Montreal. She is a clever old lady and devoted to women's rights as well as to maple sugar, but my arrival caused her to shed so many tears over the sugar that I was fearful lest it might be all washed away before the grandchildren got a chance at it. Her daughter here is married to another Mrs Evans - no relative of the one in Montreal.

He is a regular Welshman and is working in the Bodleian Library at old Welsh manuscripts. Though somewhat rough in manner, he seems to be clever and he certainly was very kind to me.

As far as this I wrote this morning since which I have been out to deliver your parcels to Nina; but of this I shall tell you in due course, first finally with Oxford. Mr Evans accompanied me in the morning to the Bodleian library, the Radcliffe Library - from the top of which a fine view of Oxford is obtained - and then to the Museum which is a large and fine building, though I do not altogether like the way in which it is lighted. The "keeper" of the Museum is Dr E. B. Tylor, who you will remember was at the meeting of the British Association in Montreal, and the fact of his being keeper is rapidly making itself manifest in the increased attention which is being paid to anthropological collections. There is a very good collection of minerals, fairly well arranged and named, and a good deal of material in the lithological way

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which, however, is sadly in need of arranging and mending.

We saw the chemical laboratory at the museum, and after lunch went to Corpus Christi College to see the laboratory there which is in charge of Professor Vernon Harcourt who was in Montreal last year. Finding that he was at his laboratory I sent in my card, and he at once came out and gave me a most hearty greeting, insisting that I must send my luggage to his house and stay there instead of at the hotel. I had intended to ~~come~~ go on to London in the evening, but he said that he was himself going there in the morning and that if I would stay with him over night we could go up to London together. The arrangement was such an agreeable one that I decided to remain, and was very glad that I did so. They have a large and beautiful house, with everything in the best of style. Mrs Harcourt is a charming woman and two sisters (Misses Bruce) who were visiting her were ~~also~~ very pleasant girls. The Harcourts have eight children

the eldest being only 10 years old,
 Twins come in somewhere, but I don't
 know exactly where. They are all
 very nice children and clever
 too. Unlike so many English chil-
 dren they are not perpetually
 banished to the nursery, but
 seem to have the run of the
 house. They have a French
 governess who seems to spend
 most of her time with them,
 and all but the littlest speak
 French quite fluently. About
 10 p. m. Mrs Harcourt & her sister
 went off to ~~take~~ a ball and
 then Prof. H. and I amuse ourselves
 with a little music consisting
 chiefly of students and childrens
 songs. At 9 o'clock next ^(Friday) morning
 we left for London and got
 here about 10.30. At first I
 went to a hotel, but finding both
 room & bill very high ~~to~~ moved
 last evening into lodgings. I am
 now on Gernyn Street, immediately

Opposite the German Street museum,
 and therefore in a very central
 place. I have only one room but
 it is large and comfortable, and
 my breakfast is brought up to
 me before I go out. As yet I
 have really done nothing in the
 way of sight-seeing, but have
 been running about delivering papers
 attending to various business matters
 and trying to get the run of the
 streets. On Friday I went to
 the Canadian Agency for my
 letters & found several, including
 one from you dear, which
 I need not say I was delighted
 to get. I also called upon Prof. Romney
 but just missed him. Since then
 I have received two epistles from
 him one inviting me to dine with
 him at his home to-morrow evening,
 the other to dine at the Geological
 Club with him on Wednesday.

Yesterday I spent several hours
 at the German St Museum and
 saw there Prof. Jukes, Mr Rudler
 & Mr Sopley, all of whom were very

kind to me. Bauerman was
out of town, but is to be here
tomorrow. I also called
upon Mulgan & upon Mr Redpath,
but did not find either of them.
On Friday I met little Amie
(from Ottawa) on the street &
we dined together. Yesterday,
too, I encountered Mr & Mrs
Sabath & had a short-confab
with them. At present they are
staying at a hydropathic estab-
lishment - some ten or twelve
miles out of London, but they expect to
come into the city this week.
Last evening I called at the
Donald Baynes and found them
at home. They have a comfortable
house and look much as when
I saw them last. They gave
me directions as to how I should
find Nina and this afternoon
I went in search of her and
found the place without much
difficulty. They have taken a
house which I should say was
a pretty expensive one, on the

principle that Londoners will not look at you if your home is a small one. As yet it is in great confusion, but they are fitting it up in highly aesthetic style. Nina has changed somewhat in appearance, though not so much as I expected.

She is, however, much quieter & though the better half, is evidently not master of the situation. The children are very nice little things. The eldest does not look at all like the Baynes family but is a great improvement upon her father in looks. The second is a fine little fellow - George Baynes duplicated. The youngest is of course still delicate, though gaining in strength. He is a bonny little boy with large black eyes. As for the father, I cannot say that I admire him. He is a hungry, haggard, gaunt-looking sort of fellow, with about the worst ~~any~~ Irish brogue that I have heard in many a day.

9 - wednesday

I expected to add a good deal to my letter, but fear that that will now be impossible. Your first letter from Mexico has just reached me and I am delighted to hear of your safe arrival there. I only wish I were with you. Now that I have got this far I feel that I must go on, but it is tiresome work and not half so enjoyable as being at Mexico. It is too bad that you had trouble about the Mexico keys. I thought I had given them all to you. However, I suppose that long before this you have got them difficultly arranged.

Yesterday I was all afternoon and evening at the "International Inventions Exhibition", and saw a great many things of which I shall not have a very vivid recollection when a few weeks have passed away. In the evening the place was lighted up with thousands of electric lights

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and there were two very good bands playing alternately. To day I spent several hours at the Zoological gardens so that I might be able to tell the children about the place. Certainly they have a great many curious and interesting creatures there. To-morrow I expect to go to South Kensington. This evening I dined at the foot. Club on invitation of Prof. Bonney, and afterwards went to the meeting of the foot. Society which was for the most part slow & uninteresting. I intended to go & see ~~the~~ Mrs Elliott to-morrow but have received a note from her saying that both she and her daughters are ill with measles, and requesting me to call on my way back.

I do not think that I have mentioned that I met Mr & Mrs Sabatt on the street the other day. They are not staying in London, but at some hydropathic establishment somewhere near. It is not unlikely that I may see them in Paris. Nulgan lunched with me yesterday. He is to be married in three weeks.

On Monday or Tuesday I shall leave for Paris & only wish I were going to leave for home instead I have had quite enough travelling already. But enough - "What cannot be cured must be endured." I sincerely hope that will not have a great many difficulties to encounter in the management of affairs at-metis and that you at least will be able to get a little rest. It would be a pity for us both to begin next winter tired out.

With all love for the dear little ones as well as for yourself, dearest, believe me ever

Your fond husband

Bernard.

Rankin is not expected here until the 7th of July.