

23 Kenning Road. Hamstead
London. May. 18th / 1886

Interesting Invitations and
Peter Redpath House

My dear Anna

It is very good of
you to write weekly yet I fear, with
all your many cares, that it must be
a tax & when the low pressure of preparations
for Antio Comms I think it will be only kind
to exempt you. I never seem to keep hold
of the dates of letters, after they are read they slip into
holes & corners of our trunk & are undiscoverable
but in the last received you told me how
Uncle papa has settled down into new circum-
stances - that he takes things easy & appears cheerful,
all good news which I hope is not a passing
phase of life but founded on obedience to the
Command, to be without carefulness. I trust the
Colts both & baby have or quite of the past. & thus
the College Session is also in oblivion, so that both
papa & mamma have more rest & work of a
more congenial character than Comms of two mus-

note of whom I contribute
to with all love &
good wishes for you
My dear Anna
Affectional
Mother

Contact with human nature.

I have just returned from Collins's Hotel — where I went by invitation from Mr. & Mrs. Pattison, to a breakfast meeting of the Tract Society. Over three hundred sat down to breakfast at nine o'clock. & afterwards we had ten minute speeches from seven or eight missionaries from as many different countries. They all spoke exceedingly well & simply & there was little or no noisy applause — only a quiet earnest spirit that gave me a great deal of pleasure. I was introduced to a few ladies & gentlemen of note in a certain circle. & Mrs. P. & I got back to Amsterdam a little before lunch. I have taken luncheon alone as Miss Bamy & Eva had gone, before my return, to spend the afternoon at the Royal Academy where we have before spent one afternoon & seen some beautiful pictures. Mr. Bird has got one of his pictures hung this year at the very high level — a hall paving the ground. Mr. Collier, who is married to one of Harpaly's daughters, has some

Chas picture exhibited. His poor
 wife, who was also a good & rising
 artist, has lately had to be put into an
 Asylum.

Chislehurst. Thursday morning.

A Transformation Scene. I was
 interrupted when I had settled
 down so quietly that it was a pleasure
 to write, & not mind the present how
 there been a chance of adding a word,
 yesterday being taken with packing
 up & travelling to this unique & really
 lovely spot. I admire the house more
 than when last here, it was then
 still in the hands of workmen & now
 it is completed & has a number of addi-
 tional rooms, ^{furnished} in accordance with
 the age of the building itself. I write
 in what is called the page's room a small
 square, with a large fire-place across one

Room. It is ceiled & richly furnished
 in black oak - upholstered in dark crim-
 son & gold - half of the windows latticed.
 I knit a small gold coloured Curtain.
 I write upon a massive black oak table.
 The view from the window of lawn
 trees & shrubs, fountain & walks covered
 with hedges & roses is a rare picture
 of beauty. Mr & Mrs Redpath are well & in
 addition to her & me there are Dr & Mrs Wilkes
 & a young person from Montreal called Thomson
 who is really charming. Here too I look
 for the rest. I found that dear
 Miss Bamery had laid out his time to
substantially us & that we had to that off
 daily to some sight & in the evenings usually
 this was Company at dinner. One day ac-
 companied by two of his hostess - a Curate
 & a hissing gentleman, we went to the

5.

Exhibition about 6 P.M. We were drinking
about, drinking Chocolate & etc. & when
the illuminations began & of which no des-
cription could convey much idea.
I only wished Eric could have been
one of the party. We got back to Somerset
for supper before eleven. The Indian Court
is decidedly the attractive one - The American
one looks cold & stark when compared
with any of the Eastern ones, or Australia,
which has got up a number of scientific
sciences with native figures & other popularly
attractive things, but accounts from those
letters filled to give an opinion on life
do enough of this. We have had also
another grand imitation for a
reception last night, at the Countess of
Grenville's, but as we have packed all
we thought we should require for

these short visits into one trunk & a
 valise & Rankine has got the rest of the
 trunk stored somewhere in London, &
 in them are our log-books, the trouble & expense
 of making ready to go wd have been too great.
 After receiving the invitation I wrote to R.,
 as he seemed to do much & enjoy the one
 at the Countess of Rasher's, leaving the decision
 wholly with him. The same night he dined
 at the Bannys & said he the difficulties too
 great do that settled the matter. We do however
 intend to go to Lady Supp's on the 25th probably
 securing belongings again on that day & thus
 gathering our scattered baggage in time to
 make our toilet. The Redoubts are also asked
 to the Supp's in place of a mere show as at
 the Rasher's we shall probably see some known
 faces. Of course we have seen little of R. lately
 & long to be near him again. With love
 & kisses for the children kindest regards to Bernard
 Love to Miss Lum & the Campbells Mrs C. & Miss M. to