

endeavored to write plain  
but you know great men always  
write badly & what can we  
less than ate me do but  
follow their example -

This will arrive too late  
to see you a merry & me  
I hope that your  
New Year will be a  
happy bright one -

With kindest & Victoria  
love from  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> 88.  
Your affectionate  
E. A. Weston

As you see, in Rome  
most remarkable of places. Of  
course as you have been here you  
know what it is like but to me it  
was quite a surprise to find so many  
old ruins. The place is filled with  
relics of its former splendour & the  
Forum & Palatine hill might be hundreds  
of miles from any modern city. It looks  
so desolate. I had pictured Rome more  
of a medieval city with only a few really  
old things. Even Egypt I fear will not  
seem much older or more foreign to  
our western ideas. But we are very much  
dissatisfied to find it so cold here.  
At the present moment I am sitting  
by a fire with a shawl around me. The



poor Roman ladies of you, must have  
suffered very much I fear from neuralgia  
& chilblains with their rooms opening  
on roofless courts. The cumpliments  
of which they were so proud, must have  
been far from advantages in winter.

This time we have gone over very  
little of the ground & you & I did when  
we were over here together. Paris & Turin  
are the only two places that I visited  
for the second time. I now feel that  
I know Paris quite well for we saw  
a great deal there & visiting places for  
the second time quite fixes them  
in ones mind. But I do not think  
that we, this time, are so energetic  
as in the summer of '80, about climbing  
up towers & steeples. We have confined  
our explorations to less ambitious heights.



we have never missed a musam.  
 We are not like Dr Syntax so much in  
 search of the picturesque as the pre-historic  
 & ancient. But in returning in spring  
 through Europe, Mother & I hope to persuade  
 Papa to linger in some pretty place in  
 Italy or Switzerland. I am now quite of  
 your opinion that it is both more interesting  
 & instructive to travel slowly & not visit  
 too many places in one day. Indeed, I  
 think you would find me a much more  
 sensible traveller now than I was three  
 years ago & I now see the philosophy in  
 many of the things that you wanted me  
 to do. My desire for shopping, for one thing,  
 has greatly diminished for we find that  
 it takes a great deal of valuable time  
 with but small results. We appreciate, too,  
 much more your amiability in bringing



home so many pretty things last year particularly those very pretty terra cotta figures - we have seen none prettier than the ones you chose -

we leave for Naples tomorrow morning & will be there until the 29<sup>th</sup> when we still hope to sail for Egypt - The earthquakes seem to have subsided for the present but the false prophet seems to be very energetic still & we may not be able to get up the Nile - I wish they c<sup>d</sup> be persuaded to put off their quarrels until we have an opportunity of seeing the sphinx & the pyramids - Mais,

~~some vicars, perhaps it will be all right.~~

How do you like the new Gov. General? We hear that Lady Lansdown is very pretty & very charming which I hope is correct - I hope that you will stay over for the British Ass. next August or return - So many people at Southport said that they hoped to see you there & I think that you w<sup>d</sup> enjoy it. I hope that this time you will be able to read my letter. I have