



London Feb 5: 1871

Dear Papa

I got yesterday evening a proof of your letter to "Nature" & have looked over it & found a few mistakes. I will return it tomorrow morning.

You will see that Dr Carpenter also wrote a letter on the subject, & that there is a little more about it in the "nature" sent this week.

I daresay I told you that Valentine, (of the Laboratory) was getting up a book on qualitative analysis, & embodying the "Tables" by which analysis is conducted at the Laboratory. It has now been out for some weeks. It seems to be quite a valuable book, & certainly if followed through

would constitute a very complete  
laboratory course. It is provided with  
questions at the end of each chapter, & the  
notation is of course in the Frankland  
style.

I don't know if "Vanity Fair" goes to  
Montreal, if it does you have no doubt  
seen the very excellent caricature  
of Prof Huxley which appeared last week.

The artist has managed very cleverly  
& put him in quite a characteristic  
attitude.

A satire on the war has appeared, quite  
a little pamphlet selling for sixpence, & very  
simply but rather cleverly written. It  
blames the English government very much  
for not interfering to put a stop to the  
fighting. It seems quite to suit the public  
taste & fall in with their ideas, judging from  
its immense sale. The general feeling  
of the country was at first I think  
almost entirely with the Prussians

as the French appeared to be the aggressors  
But ever since Sedan the sentiment  
has been changing in view of the length  
to which the Prussians have pushed the  
war, & their cruel implacable method  
of conducting it; Till now almost all  
the newspapers side rather with the  
French than with the Prussians, & in this  
they have only followed the sympathies  
of the people. England as usual has been  
too fairly neutral, & has thus obtained  
the dislike of both parties. The public  
seem to be rather disgusted as standing  
in a purposely helpless condition &  
seeing the two countries tear each other to  
pieces, when a proper exercise of firmness  
might have stopped the war after Sedan  
if not sooner. I fancy there will be  
some talking on the subject when parlia-  
ment meets, & that the present  
government will have to act carefully  
if they mean to keep in place.

G. M. D.  
Selfy, Feb 9, 1871

I have just this morning received this weeks letters. Sir W. Sayer has sent me the acanthopectra slide from Liverpool, where I suppose he is staying for a time.

Many thanks for it.

I have asked Etheridge about Kent, & must beg pardon for not attending to this before.

He seemed hardly to think Kent the right man. He is quite young & new at the

British Museum, an assistant to Woodward, & Etheridge seemed to think

that the sponges he had lately described were the first he had done. He was

out I think with McAndrew, on one of the dredging expeditions.

I have not therefore sent your note, but will retain it &

wait till I hear from you again.

Etheridge did not know of anyone else