

London May 5 / 72.

Acc. 976

Dear Papa.

I received your letter, & order for boxes, some days ago. Yesterday I went to Tennants about them, & settled the bill. I paid for them as you directed me. They promise to forward them - Sampson Low in two or three days. They are out of one of the sizes. The total was £2-10-0. They would give no discount, but promised to put them in a case free charge.

About my Chair. I have not yet received any statement of its value. However I think on the whole it seems best to take it home, for if disposed of it would probably

bring a very small part of its value.

I might send it as you propose & the
London Line to save Railway charge.

Might it not be better to sail myself &
one of the London Steamers? I believe they
go regularly every week, & imagine the
passage money is rather less than of
Allens line.

I have not yet been able to gather very
much about Continental technical
Schools. I have heard a little about Zurich
& Freiburg. Zurich is very well fitted up &
is a very good science school, but not,
they say, practical. A very good place to go
for Biology, Chemistry &c but no use
for ~~very~~ mining, metallurgy &c, & nothing
of that sort in the neighbourhood. A great
disadvantage also is that German & French are
both spoken in the district, & both very
bad patois.

Freiburg is certainly the best mining &
metallurgy school, being under the control of
the Saxon Government, & in the midst of
mines & metallurgical works, to which the
students have under certain conditions the
right of access. German said to be good.
The great disadvantage here is that the
school is much frequented by Yankees, very wild;
& with unlimited capacity for beer,
which they don't take as guiltily as the
German students.

The School of Mines at Berlin I have not been
able to hear about.

However I don't know that it is much use
discussing these things by letter, & hope soon to be
able to do so without. It might be an
advantage in some ways to go to Germany for a
time, but I think it would be expensive &
I have already cost a great deal for education.

You will see no doubt that the new
University at Strasbourg has been opened.

I do not know whether they intend
to teach Science nat. I hear that
Koffman has chosen most of the Professors
& that they are so young & unknown to
fame, that the success of the undertaking
will be more than doubtful for some time
to come.

If you wish to continue getting Nature, I suppose
it will be best to order it from Dawson Bros.

I have subscribed for it here only up to the last
of June.

Your affectionate Son

George