

P.P.S. It is very good of you to make the  
Treatise on Bridges a  
Christmas present to me.

86 Boulevard de Port Royal

Thursday, Jan. 11.

I will leave the fly-leaf blank  
so that you may write my name  
on it when I return. If I ever come to be a  
Professor, it will prove an inexhaustible source  
of examples & illustrations.

1877.

My dear Father,

I have just made up my  
accounts for last month, and I find  
the amount I have spent is F 215.80  
and I have spent in addition F 40 as  
the first installment of the work on Bridges  
that I mentioned I was intending to purchase.  
The month of December is always an expen-  
sive one, there are so many "claims on one's  
generosity". Fellows who are in the habit  
of living extravagantly in the way of  
going to Cafés, and patronizing a barber  
and so forth, find themselves literally  
besieged at the New Year. The garçon

at the restaurant one goes to, comes forward with a plate of cigars each tied round with a coloured ribbon, and with the blandness of smiles presents his compliments on the occasion of the New Year. It is a matter of indifference to him whether, <sup>or no</sup> there is a cigar less on the plate when one leaves; but he expects to find a franc or two as a return of a decidedly more substantial character than his compliment. Then the Postman leaves a Calendar published ~~by~~ with the "authorisation of the director of the department," and he too expects to be "remembered;" and when you call at the Concierge's to leave a few francs for the postman, he in his turn manifests a large amount of solicitude for your welfare during the year which has commenced, of which the meaning is obvious.

194.95 I am glad that I decided to get the works on Bridges which I now have,

fore as I find it is very often referred to  
round in our lectures, and is practically the  
bland: if not actually the text book on the  
on the subject. Our next examination is on  
of Bridges & comes off on the 30<sup>th</sup> of this  
month.

I have also borrowed £40 to renew  
my subscription to the Institute of Civil  
Engineers, and as another installment of  
£40 comes due this month, I find my-  
self obliged to draw again before the  
end of this month. I will make it  
£20 this time, which I expect will last  
till the end of March.

My expenses last month were  
£174.95 but this too will prove I hope,  
above the average.

I have not <sup>been</sup> able ~~to~~ as yet to un-  
derstand the exact way the air cir-  
culates in the interior of the stove in

William  
Levy 177

my room; but I can always make it  
into a grate-fire when I choose, by shutting  
the gratings from which the hot air issues,  
and opening the door of the stove. I have  
not felt any of the inconveniences you mentioned  
but on the contrary I am very well satisfied  
with it.

I have given the copy of <sup>Nature</sup> the "~~Dawn~~  
and the Bible,"  
of "Life" which you sent, to Miss Howard  
She is very much obliged to you, and  
I am sure, appreciates your kindness.

Believe me

Your affectionate son

William.

P.S. I find I have two copies of the  
"Dawn of Life", but as M<sup>r</sup>. Holland does  
not read English, I am afraid they would  
hardly be suitable.