

Mamma

75 Margaret Street, Cavendish Sq
London.

April 29th 1886

My dear William

Thank you so much
for letters - we were longing to hear
from home & were more than satisfied
by receiving seven at once on Tuesday
afternoon - Three of them from your dear
thoughtful self. Note writing here seems
to be one of the staple occupations, or
the slightest. Indeed your friends are ever
willing to write notes, unfortunately I am so
slow that answering these keeps me in
constant bondage. I am blacked up
by a half dozen unanswereds at present.
So I forewarn you that I must make
use of your loving forbearance & scribble

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in any position to you so that I may
get it done quickly.

We are very comfortably lodged here.
The street is quiet & at present there are
no other lodgers in the house. Rankine
is on the other side of the street a few doors
to our left & dines with us every day.
Judging from our first week's bill I
fear it will be impossible for us
to keep our expenses below £6. per week
which I consider shockingly dear. We
have ample funds to go on at this rate
without drawing from the Bank for
some time, unless we begin to do our
purchases at an early date. Tell me however
how much money you gave me in £5.
bills? I did not note that down at the
time & I am trying to keep correct accounts.

I am much distressed to hear of poor
Herbert's early & his father's late trial. I hope
it will not interfere with his coming to
Europe so he will all the more need

Chery — although nothing but consolation
 from above can much alleviate such
 a terrible trial. We are sorry too to hear
 of the floods in Montreux — we know they
 have abated, but misery & sickness as the
 result probably continues. I cannot find
 my Card-plate & Eva is asking Anna to look
 in my wardrobe for it — you will please give
 her your key.

How far something of how we are spending
 our time. R. as you know met us on the
 boat & we came on here direct. The day
 following we spent going to the Victoria docks
 to see the "Sasmania". Thursday we had to
 distribute parcels taking one to Army Inspots,
 given in charge to me from Mrs Malson,
 also went to see Mrs Carpenter but she has
 gone to spend Easter week with one of her
 sons. We are homeward to lunch with her
 today. On the Friday it took us the best part
 of the day to hunt up Tina & had to wait
 an hour for her return from a holiday walk
 it being good Friday. She looks & speaks just

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as in the palmyest days of his girlhood.
 On Saturday we tried to see Mrs. R., Lady
 Capper & Mrs. King, but every one goes out of
 town for Easter. Sunday all three went to
 see Saphire? & I was amply rewarded. Such
 teaching is good indeed, but I cannot enter
 upon his subject. Monday we had set apart
 for some necessary shopping but finding
 Easter had still fast closed every business
 the mart we stalked into the pleasure of
 a visit to Mad. Lousseus very much.
 Tuesday we literally spent at the H. & N.
 stores. I have got your shirts & socks. Called this
 besides various ^{other} things - something having to be
 changed we had to return on Wednesday
 but Mrs. King having given us the use of
 her carriage in the afternoon we took
 advantage of it to call upon Mrs. Carey
 Lady Siemens (who we found lives now at
 Lambidge Hill) & the Plecton's, found none
 of them at home so spent the rest of the time

driving in the Park & feeling much
 like the dove with its procebs feathers.
 When we returned of our quiet?
 Lodging's at 5 o'c - we found Mrs & Miss
 Rae - Miss Cowper - Nina & eldest Child
 & Rankine all awaiting us. It was quite
 overwhelming - happily we had cake on
 hand & so managed to give them afternoon
 tea & they seemed to enjoy themselves & per
 the last in the party did not have the
 dinner o'c, so we were thrown into quite
 a fashionable house for dinner. Today
 I think I told you we are to lunch with
 Mrs Carpenter. We have also accepted an invita
 tion to dine with the Raes on May 5th. The
 Bameys want us to visit them as soon after
 the 6th as we can, but Mr B. returns from his
 last trip today & is to call soon to arrange
 Miss B. is to stay for some days longer in

the Country. Mrs P. Repath comes to town
 on Monday next to remain to the opening
 of the Col: Exp: on the Tuesday & is to lunch
 with us on Monday. As to the Exp: R. has got
 one ticket for himself & has written to his
 Char: Supper asking for two for us, but
 we do not know whether he will suc-
 ceed. Each place costs one guinea so unless
 we get Complimentaries I shall not think of
 going.

Rankine looks thin yet perhaps not
 more so than when we were last here.
 I have never had an opportunity for
 a quiet talk with him - in this matter that
 of us being together is impracticable, as
 one has not only to be alone with R. but
 wait his mood & catch him when confi-
 dentially inclined & whether I ever shall have
 that opportunity I do not know. He is study-
 ing & I think at present intends to return
 to the P. O. work in July or later. I am
 now at the last moment of time & will
 finish with love to George to whom I had
 hoped to write. I am
 Yours lovingly
 Margaret