

London Decr 11/70

My Dear Mamma.

Many thanks for the
Postage stamps, which I ought to have
told you in my last arrived all right.

It is certainly an inducement to write,
to be presented with about 5/6 worth
of stamps. When this set of

Christmases will be if not over,
very close at hand & the youngsters all

no doubt in a fuss about presents &
I hope you will all spend a very merry
Christmas & I only wish I could spend
it with you. - I have got an invitation

from Lady Zule to dine with them on
Christmas eve (Saty 26). The holidays

are not long & I have a good deal I want
to do in them, so that probably they will be

spent pleasantly enough, considering. Whether

I get all I wish to do done is quite
another matter. probably not, because I
do not intend to work to any great extent.
We had a fall of about two inches of
snow a few days ago, which lay on
the ground in the form of slush for
a day or two, making everything unhorrid
mess. It has all gone now however
& today has been pretty fine though rather
raw.

Decr 15-1870

I am sending in this letter some
Christmas cards, which I hope will serve
instead of something better, & show that I
do not forget Christmas. Perhaps you
~~would~~ will take the trouble to distribute them.
I do not know Mrs Stewart address
& so send a card for her inclosed, &
hope you will forward it, though I am
afraid by the time it gets to St-Johns
it will be a little late. I had intended
to write to her, but find that I have
no time before the mail leaves to do so

besides the great-difficulty of having
nothing to say. I mean one of the
little almanacks for you & the other for
Anna, & hope that they may be a little
more useful than the majority of Xmas
Cards. Not very much ingenuity seems
to be displayed by the manufacturers in
bringing out new kinds. The same old
patterns coming up year after year.

The "Xmas Cards" however have been
utilized & you can now buy them
with "Wishing you a happy Christmas"
& other such mottoes printed on the back
very neatly.

Dr Frankland has ~~not~~ just this
morning finished his course of lectures
on inorganic chemistry, so that from now
to Christmas I will only have one lecture
(Natural history) a day, which will be
quite easy times. I am going this
afternoon to the museum of the college of

Wrylons to someone of the structures
which truly has been telling us about.

There is a publication which comes out
every week called "Vanity Fair", which
consists of a coloured portrait of some
Public man. They are caricatures, &

most exactly done. That is to say
all the worst points of a man's face are

licked out & exaggerated. They have
last week made a picture of a surgeon
which certainly is very like him, but
makes him look very ugly indeed.

Wishing you, & all a Merry
Christmas & a happy New

Year.

Yours affectionately
John Lubbock

(The above is not a copy, which will be
sent you soon. I am glad that
you are interested in the history of
the Victoria & Albert Museum)