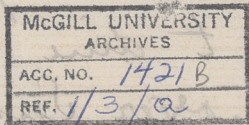


In yours received
yesterday, you say some-
thing about sending a
packet - book. By cent-
in the same mail as
the letter it must have
gone wrong, as it has
not yet arrived.
Fred.

London. Decr 29
1870.



Dear Mamma

I think, but am not-
quite sure that it is your turn for
the copy, or rather the longer, letter.
This weeks letter arrived unusually
early, last night, & consequently, which
since the coming on of the winter weather
is unusual - before the Canadian
mail leaves - You asked so
many questions in your last, that
I put them down, & now proceed to
answer them in order. You ask if
I have seen anything of Mrs Walker or
the Raes. When I got your letter I
could have answered I had not,
but your sending that pamphlet of
Papais

seems to have had a good, or
rather a bad effect; for last-night
I got a note from Mrs Rae asking
me to dine there next Saturday, &
stay over Sunday. I have answered
accepting the engagement for Saturday
but declining that for Sunday on account
of a previous engagement. Which previous
engagement means that Miss Lyell of
Regents Park Road has asked me to
dinner there on that day. And all
this just as I was congratulating
myself on having got over all my
going out for these holidays. I have
not yet got any of the things I meant
to do done, & with these engagements &
calling I suppose I will not get them
done at all. I wish you would
not stir up these people & ask me out, as
I hate going out, & dinners especially.

Saturday evening last I was at Sir C Lyell's & received a Christmas present, in the form of a copy of his book which is just out, & of which he has also sent a copy to Papa. On Sunday I dined & spent the afternoon & evening at the Etheridge's, & on Monday went to the Hutley's where there was quite a family party. About a dozen altogether sat down to dinner & great amusement was afforded by crackers containing articles of wearing apparel.

Mr Bieby called here yesterday to see me, but unfortunately I was out. You ask if I hear anything of friends in Scotland. I have been keeping up a correspondence with Christina & Ella since I left, that is to say, writing occasionally. We have no Christmas Examinations. I have continued to go pretty regularly to the church where Papa took a seat for me, but consider it rather a waste

of money to pay 5^s a quarter for it.
 An besides they are always making
 some special appeal for something or other.
 On the minister though he does not like to
 mention it, must remark that the
 weekly offering last Sunday was very small.
 It wou^{ld} be any larger for anything I
 give to it, for when you pay for your seat
 I consider it a mean suicide to come
 always begging round for something more.
 If the cannot let the seats profitably for
 5^s shillings they should raise the price
 honestly at once.

You asked me some time ago to tell you
 what I thought of George Pinnerole. I hardly
 know what to say. He seems to be discouraged
 with his present situation, & his chances of
 rising, but I don't know whether he has
 sufficient energy to do so in another or not.
 & though the salary is poor in the P.O. service
 it is considered a very gentlemanly office.
 He sent me a kind invitation to come to
 dinner with him on Xmas day, which
 unfortunately I could not accept.

With all love
 believe me your affectionate son
 Galt.

George & Anne / 170