

London Jan 8. 1871.

Acc. 976

My dear Mamma

During our late severe frost, nearly everybody's water pipes froze, which was not surprising, as they often do outside the houses along the walls without any protection. The unfortunate people therefore having no water in their houses were obliged to obtain it at the taps, which were fixed in the street flaps. The turncock fixed these flaps in about 9 o'clock in the morning, & for about an hour it was quite a scene. All the servants, & sometimes boys & girls, shivering in the cold, & waiting their turn. While the water which splashed about froze into sheets of alushy ice round the flaps & in the gutters. I see in this week's "nature" that the frost for severity & continuance has not been

equalled since that of the winter of
1860. It hardly ever rose above the
freezing point for 14 days. I don't
think the English people seem to understand
taking care of themselves either in cold or
hot weather. The snow in many
of the streets was carefully gathered into
heaps beside the gutter, & in Oxford St. I
saw them trying to get rid of it in a
most absurd way. They had a
barrel perforated at the bottom, into
which they were shoveling snow, & passing
a current of steam by means of a
nozzle & hose from a steam fire engine.
Hardly a drop of water, was however
coming out, & I should think at the
rate they were going it would take
about a month to clear the street.
We have had the thaw now for about
a week, & have returned to plenty
rain & horrible mud.

Jan 12.

I enclose my account up to the end of last year, for Papa. I am much obliged to you for enclosing Anna's interesting letter from Toronto. as she wrote as well, I had sent a bundle of letters & altogether, especially as Papa sent me an additional paper with a copy of Judge Day's speech, & some more copies of the Goram paper. I hardly know who to send them to. Anna will

I suppose have returned by this time, though as he seems to be enjoying himself so much at Toronto & meeting so many friends, it is possible she may still be there. At any rate please give her my love & thank her for her letters.

In the envelope, along with the letters you sent me last mail. I found a little memorandum about my Aunt, & which had no doubt of some accident been included among the letters. I hope its loss

did not put you to any inconvenience.

Yesterday I paid another visit to the Museum of the College of Surgeons to see some of the specimens there, but as usual in such

places you see a great many things you did not come to see which take your time & attention, from those which are the object of the visit. I wish now, that last summer I had put a lot of animals in spirits at Brompton, they would be very useful for examination now.

I always think of plenty things to say before I begin to write, but the moment I put pen to paper they all vanish, I leave me without an idea. So please excuse more at present, I will love to yourself & all.

Your affectionate son

Wm. Dawson