

London Feb - 5. 1871.

Acc. 976

Dear Mamma,

Nothing to write about as usual, I think you must be much better situated as regards news, for you always seem to find something to say. Anna too being in Toronto naturally meets with plenty subjects. I was very glad to get her long letters by the Cunard mail. Generally the Cunard letters come just about a day before the Canadian mail, & sometimes not that, but last week they came very early & the ordinary mail arrived quite late, & so made sending them that way quite worth while. Now that we seem to have seen the last of the frosty weather, & have it quite milder of course with my

Hyacinths are coming on more rapidly,
& promise to flower in a week or two
at first they were a good deal of
trouble, as the parts of the bulbs in the
water began to mould, & the young
roots as they grew out rotted away.

Constant change of water, & plenty
Charcoal, however got them over this,
& now most of them have got quite
good roots & will I think flower well,
I was told, & think it would be worth
remembering if planting bulbs in pots,
that the gardeners always mixed
a quantity of charcoal powder with
the earth, which not only keeps the
soil more loose & porous, but
prevents the decay of the young roots,
& to some extent supplies them with
nourishment. I hope to hear how
your hyacinths are getting on.

Acting on your suggestion, & also to thank
her for the shortbread which she sent

through George) I wrote a letter to
Aunt Primrose the other day, I
certainly should have done so before, but
hope it will be better late than never.

Ella sent me a few days ago a
small box, containing Coconut, tablet,
he said that she & William had been
trying their hands at the manufacture
& sent me a sample of it. It was
certainly quite a success, & very neatly
prepared consisting of two layers a red
& a white, quite as artistically arranged
as if done by a confectioner. It was
very kind of her to think of sending it.

Dr Frankland's lectures have begun again
now, & I am going up to them in the
mornings. I find much more interest
in the "organic" lectures this year than
last, as I understand a little about
it to begin with.

Smallpox is quite prevalent in London
just now, & as there has been a

Good deal of talk about it, & it
seemed to be the general fashion,
we had Mrs Guest's doctor here the
other day & were all three vaccinated.
Mine seems to be going to take, & consequently
I may expect to have a sore arm for a
few days to come.

I don't know if you have seen a satire on the
war, called "The fight in Dame Europas school"
which has been published here lately, I
suppose if it has not already got to Montreal,
it will very soon. It seems to have taken
here, in an extraordinary way, nearly a
hundred thousand copies have been sold
in the last few weeks. It is in a
very simple style, & casts great blame
on the action, or rather inaction of the English
government. Hoping to have something
more to add when I post this.

I am your affectionate son

George M. Dawson

8 West Street

vacation +

George M. Dawson