

it-be to go to France
& learn German
French & other
things fail?
your loving son
George L. Dyer

Mr. George -
M. Evans

London. March 26.

1871.

Acc. 976

My Dear Mamma

I have just read your
last letter over, & had better begin I suppose
by answering your question. My Vaccination
did take though not at all severely. My
arm was a little hot & sore for a day or
two but now the scab has been gone a
long time & hardly even a mark
remains. I think I have been vaccinated
only once before, for if I remember rightly
last time there was a general vaccination
at home I was missed out from
some reason.

As you say that Spring birds have
a rather bad, why you write, arrived,

I conclude that you must be having
a very early spring. I only hope that it
will continue, but fear that a relapse must
take place. Here the weather has become
quite summer like, & for the last few days
has been almost-hot. The great-
subjects of discussion are the relative chances
of the Oxford & Cambridge Crews in the
approaching race. Cambridge, as you know
won last-year, after a long succession of
defeats, & everyone is much interested
in their chance of doing so again this.
The crews as far as can be judged seem
very nearly equal at present.

The examination in Mineralogy comes
off next-Friday March 31. & is the
subject of much trepidation, as ^{is} usual
in Spring & invariable when an
examination is in hand. I have been
fubing a

little seedy. I have been devoting
all my time to Mineralogy lately, &
will continue to do so during the few
days which now remain. Young Hueley
& I have been working together a good deal.
We find it a good plan to read over
so many Chapters of Notes, & then examine
each other on them. My great trouble is
want of ability to remember figures, & I
find that though in most things he is
a little slow he remembers the hardnesses
& Specific gravities of the minerals
much more quickly & easily than I.
Smyth being I believe rather a particular
examiner accurate memory in these
respects I fancy goes a good way
with him.

The usual routine has been lately
to read notes & hold examinations all
the morning, then go out for lunch &
come back to Geology

lecture. Then to go up to the
Museum & look at Minerals & Models
of Crystals &c till 5-8⁰⁰. & in the evening
to work again at Mineralogy.

I think we will all studiously avoid the
Cases of Minerals, in the Museum when the
examination is over.

I have had a note from Col. Haultain
saying that he has your little parole &
giving me his address, & intends to write
to him, saying that I will call for the
Parcel after next Friday, as before that I
can hardly afford to loose a day.

I do not know what arrangements will
be made about the Summer. The Survey here
as elsewhere is exceedingly economical, & places
on it are only obtained after passing a
somewhat rigorous exam. Even when any
are vacant. So that I fancy any connection of
that kind would have to be purely amateur.
Going to Germany without knowing a word of
German would be little use unless I could
get someone there to teach me. How would