

London.

May 7. 1871.

Acc 976

Dear Mamma.

Yesterday I had a visit to the exhibition of the Royal Academy, & spent a very pleasant afternoon there. The exhibition this year is generally thought to be hardly up to the average, but nevertheless there are some very good pictures.

The pictures of the year are said to be one by Millais, called "Chill October" & one by Frost of the gambling table at Homburg. One very pretty picture is called "The Explorers" & represents a little boy & girl exploring some dark stairway, candle in hand. The light,

expression of the faces is excellent.

Some of the Landscapes are especially good. I liked one of the "Southern Alps of New Zealand" another of "Mt Chimborazo". & one of a "Cove in N. Devon" very much.

The very curious piece, was a View of the English Channel from some cliffs. It is a very large picture, & has no foreground whatever, neither is any land seen in the distance, & only one or two distant sails. The whole picture consists of an expanse of intensely blue water. The Sun however is streaming down through the clouds above, & the lights & shades of colour on different parts of the sea are admirably managed. The water indeed almost seems to be in motion.

With love to yourself Anna & all
at home.

Your affectionate Son
Joseph.