

I enclose one or
two stamps.
Perhaps William
or Rankine may
like them for their
collections. If they
still collect.

London June 18/71.

Dear Mamma.

In your last
letters you write almost despairingly
I seem to be quite overdone by
the multitude of your visitors.

I am afraid you take too much
trouble with them, you should
make them at home, & then let them
take care of themselves.

If you have time you should read the
"Battle of Dorking" which I sent to
Rankine by last mail. You will find
it very clever, & rather a good critique
on the present state of the Volunteers &c

Last Friday Evening I went -

Dr Buxby's ~~for~~ dinner. He has
a clergyman, (one of his nephews)
& his wife staying with him ~~at~~ at
present. After dinner we went
to the Royal Institution, where there
was a rather interesting entertainment.
It was more an exhibition than a
lecture, & consisted of a number of
photographs of arctic scenery, glaciers &c
which were thrown on a large screen
from the electric lamp & explained
as they were shown. The lecturer
was a Mr — (I forget his name)
who fitted out a small arctic expedition
on his own account a year or two ago
& spent a summer voyaging about
Greenland & Melville Bay. He is
himself an artist, & had on view in
the library of the R.I. several well painted
pictures ● of icebergs glaciers &c.
besides a great number of photographs

which were taken by his assistants.

I saw Mrs Rae at the R.I. & she desired to
be remembered to you -

The Palaeontology is now over, (that
is to say the demonstrations) The class
only consisted of about 9 or 10. Young
Parker, Miller, Carpenter, two fellows
from University College, & two or three
others.

The three first mentioned
are competing for the Edward Forbes
Award, which is given for Palaeontology
& Natural History. Parker, & Miller (a
son as I suppose you know of the
old Hugh Miller) have both been at the
demonstrations last year. Carpenter
(a son of Dr Carpenter) has not but
is a wonderfully clever fellow & has
the advantage of an indian rubber
memory. I think it will be a
very even race & it will be quite
interesting to see who comes out first.

One of the University College fellows
called Elwes who intended going in

for the Palaeont. Exam. Has between
that & his College studies, overworked
himself & been obliged to give up of so
long.

I have not so
far heard anything more definite
from Prof Ramsay but no doubt will
before long. The Palaeont. Exam comes
on the 6th of July & will keep me in
town a week longer than I had thought.

If anything breaks down in the Sarag
arrangement, I will feel quite
undecided what to do unless before
then I get some instructions from home.

You seem to lean to any going on the
Continent. Anna mentions coming home.
Of course the latter would be far the
pleasentest, but it would be a pity to
lose the advantages which my position
on this side of the water give me for
learning something. So that I am not
going to allow myself to think ^{about} going
home till after next X mass. For if I
did I might perhaps become homesick.

Your loving son

George