

London Jan 7, 72.

Acc. 876

My Dear Mamma

At the Lyells the other evening I saw a novelty in the way of decoration, which perhaps may be new to you also. It is called the Camp-kettle & is for holding flowers.

Three sticks (stems of young cardus said to look best) are joined together at the top, & strengthened below if necessary with cross pieces. A basket is hung in the centre which holds a tin, or other cup in which the flowers are put. The whole is covered over with thin tin foil, glued on, & pressed together with the hand so as to give it a rumpled appearance, & from a little distance looks quite

quite like Silver, & Very pretty. The hanging basket is also covered with foil, & suspended by a chain made of them with silver in the same way. Silvered wires are also used for tying together the three main sticks.



about 18 inches.

I had a note on Fridg from Dr Bishy asking me to come to dinner with him on Monday & afterwards go to the geographical Socy.

This evening I am going to Prof Ramey & dine with them. Phillips is also going.

I was very glad to hear last week of the high places taken by Rankine & Ever in their respective schools, & by Anna in Mineralogy. How in the world do the Redpaths stand so well I never

heard that they were at all alive?

Jan 10.

I spent a very pleasant evening at the Ramsays, & also at Dr Bishops on Monday. He has a married brother & his wife staying with him.

The meeting of the Geographical Socy was very interesting & related chiefly to Dr Livingston. The Socy have decided to send out an expedition to ascertain his fate & if still alive to help him. Last authentic news was 2½ years ago when he was quite without supplies or medicines. Goods forwarded were intercepted by the natives then at war.

The idea now is to send fresh assistance. One or ~~at least~~ two Englishmen & a party of natives travelling in the way Livingston himself travelled being most likely to get safely through. The Council of the Socy. have given £500.

The public are to subscribe & Government
to be asked for a grant £2,500 at least
are required. The expedition it is hoped
may start in a few weeks.

Prof Huxley who has not been at all well
for some time back, announced on
Monday that he could not lecture any more
for the present as his medical adviser had
ordered him to go abroad for his health.

He starts today for Egypt & will not be
back to resume his course till after
Easter. This will be rather a bother to me
in one way. Throwing more work toward
the East & giving less field work for the
present time when no exams are pressing
& one feels a little apt to be lazy.

Mr Lane had 50 lectures out of his
course of 80

Please thank Ranking for his nice
letter. I hope to write soon
Your loving son
Sergeant