

London Feb 7. 72

Acc. 976

My Dear Nanna

Many thanks for your
last, though cut-off so abruptly by some
interruption. I am sorry to hear that
Small-pox is so prevalent in Montreal.
It seems to have been taken just about a year
to travel from here. Last winter there
was just such an excitement here & as
you say many servants left their places &
went home. This arose from exaggerated
reports which so frightened their country friends
as to cause them to write urgently to leave
London.

Yesterday evening I spared an hour to go to
the S. Kensington Museum. The Duke of

He has sent there his collections
made during his trip round the world in
the Galeata. The North Court of the Museum
has been almost-cleared for their reception.
There are a couple of Cases of memorials,
Some beautifully illuminated; & the pieces
in which they were presented. Some fold
some silver, some inlaid wood &c &c.
There are also numerous pieces of plate,
specimens of native gold & silver. A whole
collection of Swords Sabres &c presented
by various Indian dignitaries. A large
Case of stuffed birds. Japanese & Chinese
ornaments, books, money &c. About
two dozen handsome silver trawls used
in laying foundation stones.
But the best-part of the exhibition is a
complete series of sketches by artists who
accompanied him. Some of these are really
beautiful. There are all sorts of sea pieces
& Shipping Views. Views of places, pictures

of natives. Illustrations of elephant hunting
in Ceylon &c. Altogether the collection is quite
worth seeing & the museum was quite crowded.

What an atrocious & insulting rendering of the
Alakama claims the so called "Americans" have
got up. I am glad to see that papers of
all shades of politics here go together on the
question, & are determined that no such
claims shall go before the arbitrators. I think
this will open the eyes of many even "advanced
liberal" politicians. They don't seem to see
however that the Americans do not want to have
the claims paid at all, that they know their
whole case is hard & do not wish it to go before
any tribunal; but that the whole affair is an
electioneering dodge on Grant's part.

In fact Public men here of whatever shade
of politics, are at least honest. They take
other people to be the same & do not appreciate the
fact that the Yankees individually & collectively
live on humbug, & that in the United States
every Business from Peddling up to the
Presidency is dishonest & founded on fraud.

Feb. 7. I received last night just

a budget of letters I must answer
more fully next mail.

Your affectionate son

George.