

London. March 3. 1896

My Dear Mamma

Natural Standing over

early spring & premature warm weather
here the roads continue to arrive late
Hardly was in time to answer & return.

Last Tuesday was the grand Thanksgiving,
& as nothing particular has happened
besides, I may give you a short description
of what I saw of it. Well, to begin with

I was very lucky, for while I was debating
what to do on the day, the laboratory & being
closed I got the offer of a ticket to stand.

A fellow called Lane, at the School of Mines
to have got two more tickets than he wanted
gave them to Phillips & myself. His father
is in some way connected with the corporation.

~~8~~ the tickets were for a corporation stand
erected on the ~~Hoburn Viaduct~~.

We started about 10 o'clock. All the shops
were shut & business entirely suspended, &
everybody seemed to be winding their way city-ward.
As we passed Hyde Park Corner some stands
there were already partly occupied though the
Queen would not pass till half past three
at the earliest. Having got to Regent Circus
we took cross cut towards the viaduct
by Long Acre & other side streets which were
almost deserted, & then turned up into
Hoburn. Here the street was already cleared
& lined with troops, the windows partly full &
the crowd not uncomfortably thick.

Soon however we came to a block of people &
found it impossible to pass turned into
side streets again & at last gained our stand.
The stand was very handsomely got up. Seats
covered with crimson baize, floor carpeted, &
the whole well roofed over. The front was
ornamented with baize, fringes, & flags but

2
this we could only see by reflection in the
opposite windows. All H^oburn as far as we
could see seemed a blaze of colour. The houses
half covered with crimson drapery, flags,
& wreaths; & every window already full of people.
Garlands of flowers were hung from Camp-
-Camp-just all along, & the whole street had
been strewn with clean yellow sand.

Opposite, the line was kept by a large detachment
of horse-guards, & some grenadiers.

We had about three hours to wait - I occupied
ourselves looking at the crowd which soon
became very thick indeed. The least thing
served to amuse them. Every little while some
poor dog having got into the street was
chased & hooted all along the line. The dogs
evidently thought the people were all arranged
there for the purpose of making fun of them.
& were naturally embarrassed. Some that passed
seemed to have run several miles between
the solid walls of people & were quite done
up. Presented a woman who had been standing
for a long time in the front rank fainting, &

Caused a momentary diversion. Then
Col. Henderson Chief of Police rode past &
was received with subdued laughter & groans.
For though the people like the soldiers they thought
it too good an opportunity to let pass, to show
they did not care so much for the police.

About 2 o'clock the crowd got lighter than ever.
The soldiers & police tried to keep them back to
the line of the pavement, but every now & then
you could see a sort of swaying two & pros, & then
at some weak place the line would break
& the people be pushed forward into the street.

Then the soldiers & police would try to push the
eruption back. The people in the front would do
their best at pushing too but it often took a long
time to compress the crowd to its former bulk, &
no sooner was one place filled than the
line bulged out at another.

At last the procession passed. The bells of the
churches were all ringing furiously. A deaf and
shouting hymn to be perceptible, then it came
nearer & nearer & at last you were all among
it. Every house was hurrying out at windows
with people. Roofs covered with people. The side
streets as far as you could see crammed with

5
Old Bailey. Here the way toward Ludgate hills
seemed comparatively clear, in fact - a good many
people were going in that direction. But very
soon there were more people, & more people all
going in the same direction & nobody could
pass the other way. Very shortly I got separated
from Phillips. The crowd got thicker &
thicker till at last you were carried along.

Whether you wished or not, & in fact - would have
gone quite as fast - without touching your legs
to the ground at all. This was all very well
but when we got down nearly to Ludgate
hill we saw that it also was quite full of
people, & carriages returning from St. Pauls
blocked up in the crowd. There was no possibility
of getting out into Ludgate Hills & the whole
length of old Bailey were pushed in that
direction. It was a considerable jam, I
should think somewhere about 20 persons
the square inch. Every now & then there would
be a surge one way & a reaction the other; &
multitudes of people stamping on your toes.
Every time the crowd moved this way the women
began to scream; & some of them fainted but

people. As the Carriages passed, the Sea Colours
hats & Coats, changed to a sea of faces
rippling with hats & handkerchiefs. The
procession was not much in itself, only a
few State Carriages hung round with gilt
footmen & accompanied by a few Squadrons of
Cavalry. It passed slowly & we had a good sight
of the royal party consisting of the Queen, Prince
Princess of Wales & two of their children. Prince
Arthur & Leopold & Princess Beatrice.

The soldiers had orders to keep the line a little
while after the procession had passed, but as
soon as it had gone by the line would be kept
no longer, & the street was filled. The greatest
thing was that though the crowd had expanded
into the whole breadth of the street it was as
thick as ever, all appearance.

Dead to the ground we got out into the street
again & thinking to have a look at the

decorations of Ludgate Hill proceeded in that
direction & side streets. Getting to the foot of Farringdon
street we saw the triumphal arch there
erected, over the heads of the mob but found it
impossible to get out into the line of route there.
Striking off by other side alleys we got to

Fortunately they could not fall down, or they
would have been trodden to pieces. One old woman
near me was appealing pitiously to a stoutish man
not to squeeze her so. Said man with the best
intention in the world could not relax his
pressure for an instant. A little girl unfortunately
included had got her hat knocked off over her
shoulder but could not get a hand up to
put it on. She seemed to end in a sandwich
below as far as I could make out. I put her
hat right once or twice but it soon fell off again.
Presently under an extra thrust the boarding put
in front of a shop window to protect it gave way
with a crash. After about twenty minutes
or quarter of an hour spent without moving
20 yards from one spot the crowd loosened a
little in front & I managed to get out into
Ludgate Hill. At the corner a woman having
got shelter between a lamp post & pillar was
yelling as fast as she could take breath. I
suppose she must have been hysterical.

The police were trying to make a way for the carriages
from St Pauls. As one of these passed I tried
to join a little crowd which was getting along
behind it, but before I could do so was swept away.

by a counter current. I found myself moving rapidly backward & was obliged to face about. We came suddenly to another opposite stream, there was a momentary stagnation before the crush & I managed to slip out sideways & get under a rail protecting the pavement. Here it was not so bad & I soon got out by a side street onto the embankment. I now suddenly remembered that I had not once looked at the decorations of Ludgate Hill; but concluded not to go back. I have formed an increased estimate of the elasticity of human ribs.

I had intended not to go out in the evening & to read, but found I could not settle to work, & so about 9.30 sallied forth to see the illuminations. I went round of Piccadilly Regent St & Oxford St & saw what was to be seen without going actually into the City. The streets were crowded but not uncomfortably. There were some splendid illumination devices & hosts of lesser ones. It was as bright - not as day - but nearly as bright as a well lighted room in most places. Tramp - arenas of all kinds & every here & there.

An electric lamp being forth. Ofard St
& Hoburn had besides some 33,000 Chinese
lanterns hung in strings between the lamp-posts.
& Venetian masks. But they were rather a
failure. They looked dim beside the gas, & the
boys seemed to consider it a good joke to let
them swing in, so that many were extinguished
& very now & then one would take fire &
fall down.

I had intended to write to Papa but have taken
so long over this letter that I have scarcely time.
I think under the circumstances it will be better
to abandon the Proposed Cornwall trip. The
exams. will not be over till about the
last of June. The trip would have to be
after that & I am afraid would put off too
much time. It will then be my best way
I suppose to start direct for home by the
first steamer after the exams. I only wish
they were well over.

I enclose some crests which I got for Eva
& Liza will be a good addition to her

Collection.

March 3

With best Love to all at home

& to yourself in particular.

Your loving Son
George

P.S. I fear this letter being too heavy & therefore will only enclose one Sheet of the Crests this time. Two more to follow by next mail. I am glad the Camp-Kettle has proved so usefully ornamental (so to speak) & hope your cold will long ere this be gone.

Yours

I post with this a thank-you
number of the Graphic. Addressed
to - Amner. There is a large plate / portrait
of the Queen belonging to it but it
would not fold without spoiling.