

Please give me
wishes of warmest
love to Anna, Home
I shall accept very
much for Eva & family
also kind speaking
you to Mr. Williams
as we well accept
I'll say I want to
know what he
American friends
sent her, Dec. 10
Very many thanks
for your present
to the Carnival.
I can't leave my work much
as I see the day left you
to come to us after that

between us delightful surprise came to us
on Saturday night, wasn't it good
& kind of Rankine to think of
me, I do appreciate it most
heartily - We had been at an
"At Home" at Mrs Campbell's &
it was such an unusually
pleasant one that we stayed
very late & were all sitting
round the fire after tea in a
somewhat collapsed state,
trying to think we were very
much interested in a book

However we do not forget that you & Eva promised

festive time was over, & we shall not fail to remind you of it the next year.
I was reading aloud, when the bell rang & Bella appeared with an Express parcel, which once awakened us all up. Your kind note told the tale, & then the beautiful shell was admired as it could not fail to be by all of us. But even nicer than its beauty was the thought, that Rankine remembered us on the other side of the world & gave me a place in your own circle. I will write to tell him how much it pleased me, I think I must send my note to you & ask you to enclose it, as I don't know where to find him. What a contrast this Xmas must have been to your last, as to weather circumstances, company everything. But the dear ones round you, would

far more than make up for anything else that was brighter last year.

I got a nice note & card from Anna & a card from William & Florence, & last but certainly very far from least your pretty cards for Mamma & me - Certainly it is a pleasant thing to have a time in the year, when ones friends say that they are thinking of us. We know they do not forget, as we do not them, but still the reminders are very pleasant, & linked as they are with the Gifts which God's great love sent to us, I do think that X^{mas} tide is a very happy one - The Browns always dine with us on that evening & we spent the greater part of it in singing the sweet hymns we all grew so fond of during the Noodie meetings -

I wish you were here to advise with us, as to the best way of arranging my shells, so as shew off their beauty

& rarity to the best advantage -

Papa suggests that they should lie on a velvet mat on the Drawingroom table, (rather cool when they are mine, not the family's property, however I think I can't carry them off, as I should like to do, to my own room, & I thought of arranging them on a velvet playne; but Papa is old-fashioned & not very fond of them, so the most approved idea, is to get two small cases & place a shell on each - This I think is to carry the day, unless some more brilliant idea is suggested - Mrs Campbell, who has just returned from England, had met Rankine in London & brought us a greeting from him -

I have a fashion of gathering the photos of all my friends & placing them about my room at X^{mas} time & a funny old student one of Rankine's was one that had a place on my dressing-table, so I think there must have