

Rag market
Coal exchange
Fur designs X X



Miss Dawson
Mc Gill College
Montreal
Canada.

MONTRÉAL
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Dear Anna.

I have to write this week without acknowledging any letters from home, as the mail is late & has not yet arrived. I have to thank you however for your very interesting letter received from Quebec, by Edward. I suppose that long before this reaches you, you will have got home again.

Last Saturday, I had to go into the city about the bill of Exchange which Papa sent, so after having arranged that, as I had nothing particular to do. I called on Mr. Lison & we went together for a stroll.

in some of the poorer parts
of the Metropolis. We first
went to a Synagogue, but
not knowing the times of the
services, we found the door shut.
Our next visit was to Rag Fair
you have to pay a Halfpenny to go
in, & when you are in there is
nothing worth seeing, only a
dirty looking little market, with
a lot of dirty women, selling
filthy old boots & shoes, I
don't know who buys them, but as
most of them are so distorted & hard
that it would be almost
impossible to get your foot into
them, & even then full of large holes
I should much prefer going barefoot
to wearing them. As it was
Saturday & most of the occupants
of the Fair are Jews, I suppose
it was not a good day to see
the place in perfection.

We next went through Whitechapel
& a lot of dirty little streets &
came out at last at the docks.
& from there came home by Lower
Thames St., & the steamboat from
London Bridge. On our way to
the boat, we visited the coal
exchange, which is a very handsome
building ~~with~~ circular, with three
tiers of galleries round the inside &
a large circular hall in the middle,
from the galleries open the offices of
the various coal dealers. The roof of
the hall is very prettily ornamented by
a series of oval pictures, of restored
coal plants, (mostly ferns) on a light
blue ground. And round the
galleries at intervals are ornamental
devices, having at the top the picture of
some famous coal pit, & at the
bottom a representation of two
fossil branches, crossed. These are
mostly *Sigillaria* & *Lepidodendrons*.

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I have seen a very pretty affair
in some of the shop windows, here,
which perhaps you would like to
imitate. It is made by ~~laying~~^{hanging}
dried ferns on a sheet of drawing
paper, as a wreath or other form.

Then I think dabbing all over them
with a brush cut short, with black
paint pretty dry. When the ferns
are taken up they appear as beautiful
white figures on a dark ground gradually
shading off all round. A few more
ferns may then be laid on, & by the
same process the former ones are thrown
back by ^{the} shading passing over them.

In the Centre of the wreath may then
be illuminated any design, such as a
cross with a scroll round it, or a
scroll alone. I have seen some very
pretty with a little frame of branches
tied together at the corners, painted
among the ferns.

With best love to all of yourself
I am your affectionate brother,

John Hudson

