



London June 19.  
1870

My Dear Anna,

Many thanks for your  
post letter which though short  
was welcome & I took the liberty  
of reading the others also before  
forwarding them to Scotland.

Papa & Mamma are looking about  
them for a place to spend the summer.

(For Mamma & myself I mean) I don't  
yet know how it is to be arranged

& whether we are to go with the  
Bells or the Primroses, or both together

or in short anything about it.

Further than that Papa has spoken

of St Andrews & Bruntisland as  
places he thought favourable both

as to ordinary sea-side advantages  
& opportunities for collecting fossils

minerals. Both these places are  
quite near to Edinburgh, (within  
thirty miles) which to my mind is  
rather a disadvantage as I should  
prefer to go to some very out of the way  
place (Hebrides or Shetland Isds for  
instance?) but then I suppose that  
would be quite out of the question.  
The session will now be ended  
in two weeks, I will be rather  
glad when it is over, both because  
London is getting so unbearably hot  
& stuffy & because the examinations  
will have been got over (for better for  
worse). With regard to these last  
I have no very pleasant anticipations.  
I never have developed the faculty of  
learning off by heart & a great deal of  
that is required in the Chemistry  
& in this hot weather I feel quite  
done up when I get home &  
hardly fit to study at all.

The theoretical Chemistry examination

comes off on the 29<sup>th</sup> & of it  
I am most glad. The practical  
follows the next day, & this depends  
to a great extent on luck, for you get  
a substance to analyse, & have seven  
hours to do it in. Each ~~substance~~  
student gets a different substance  
& though they are supposed to be made  
as nearly equal as possible, in difficulty  
it depends a good deal on what  
substance you get & whether you  
happen to remember that part of the  
tables well or not. The examination  
in Physics will I think, though the  
date is not yet fixed come off the  
next day (July 26<sup>th</sup>). Thus the three  
exams will be on three consecutive  
days which means only one night  
to look over the physics.

I have read some more stories in  
"Men Women & Ghosts" & think them  
very clever, especially "Little Tommy  
Lucker".

Yesterday afternoon I went for a  
little while to the Exhibition of the  
Royal Academy. There are a great  
number of pictures & some of them  
very beautiful. Especially some of the  
landscapes. One of the pictures is  
one called "The Flood" by Villars.

It represents a baby in a cradle in the  
foreground, floating along the stream  
& stretching up its hands toward the  
branches of the trees as they pass overhead—  
quite unconcerned & rather seeming to enjoy  
it than otherwise. On the corner of the  
cradle sits a black kitten quite awake  
to the danger & meowing & looking most  
uncomfortably wet. Beside the cradle  
floats a big yellow jug, which is  
most splendidly painted, & in the  
distance you see the father & mother of the  
child coming in a boat. You are left in  
uncertainty whether the boat will arrive  
in time or not as the cradle is not  
far from the beginning of a sort of rapid.

With best love to yourself & William  
Rankine & Eva  
Your affectionate brother  
E. C. S.

London June  
1870  
Hans & going  
to Scotland to  
stay with

LONDON  
12  
JULY  
70

not gone thro

MONTREAL  
AM  
JULY 5  
70

Miss Dawson

~~Madam McGill College~~  
Papa

Post au ~~Montreal~~  
Canada.  
Murray Bay P.Q.

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POST OFFICE. BRO

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