

London May 14  
1871.

My Dear Anna

You say in your last  
that you are having dull chilly weather.  
I am sure I can quite sympathize with  
you for here, we have been having almost  
a second winter. I think it rained  
more or less every day last month, & the  
sky is constantly incumbered with just  
cold clouds.

I should fancy that from your account  
the "German Parties" must be rather slow  
though no doubt very instructive. I suppose  
you are quite a German scholar now  
& will be able to teach me that guttural  
language, when I come home.

If I go to Cumberland after the Session

is over & have time, there will  
no doubt be plenty of sketching to  
be done, & I hope to send samples  
for your approval. I only wish  
that you were here to instruct me  
in that branch as well. As you  
are going to Cacoma this summer  
you will be able to do some sketching there  
& will no doubt find that you have  
vastly improved since you were  
there last.

May 18.

I suppose you must have heard  
of the match-tax which Mr Low  
tried to bring in. It created quite  
a little talk at the time. Everybody  
though it very strange & foolish to  
tax such useful articles as matches  
so highly, that the tax well amounted  
to about 150 per cent on their  
value. All the match manufacturers  
were very indignant. They gave  
their employes a holiday

to allow them to get up a  
demonstration; which they did, &  
collected in a great crowd near  
the Houses of Parliament. Some of  
them were rather noisy & uproarious  
& so were arrested, & altogether  
there was rather a fuss. All the  
comic papers of course made great  
fun of Mr. Low & his Match-box  
Budget, & finally the Match tax & several  
other obnoxious measures  
were withdrawn. The Government  
feeling that unless they did so they  
would be turned out of office.

There are, I hear, at the  
International exhibition a great  
many good pictures, in fact  
most people say that the pictures  
are the thing best worth seeing &  
that the remainder of the exhibition is

not of much interest. I will  
not be able to go to see it till  
after the Geology Examination, but  
after that ideal hope to be able  
to spare a day.

Home letters have not yet  
arrived this week. They are pretty  
late for the season especially as  
the weather the last few days has been  
moderately fine. Please thank  
Rankine & Eva for their letters, &  
tell them I will try to write soon  
in reply.

With all best wishes

Believe me, dear Anna

Your affectionate Brother

George