



London Oct 8.  
1871.

My Dear Anna

I must apologise  
for my very scanty letters of last  
week. I have also got quite out  
of my routine & forget to  
whom I have & have not  
written lately, though I fancy were  
my accounts balanced the number  
in the latter category would  
much preponderate.

I have now had a weeks work  
at the Metallurgical Laboratory  
& next Thursday my first  
lectures (Nat. Hist.) begin. I  
am glad they do for I find it  
very hard to work at anything  
in the

evenings when I have no  
regular work cut out.

The Laboratory is decidedly hard  
work but I think I shall like it  
especially as it indulges to the  
full the tastes which I always  
possessed for melting lead & other  
metals & working with fires. It  
is intensely practical, seeing that  
you have to light your own  
furnace of a morning (in which  
art the Lab. assistant gave us a  
most valuable & suggestive lesson)  
& stoke it all day, breaking up  
coke to a suitable size & shoveling  
it in as occasion may require.  
There are only 12 places in  
the Laboratory, & they are all taken  
up, & as usual many applications

having to be refused. Several of us  
have provided ourselves with  
blue spectacles to preserve our eyes  
from the furnace glare, which is  
very great when engaged in  
assays which require some time  
& constant watching. The training  
will be very useful, especially  
for commercial purposes as you  
can make more assays in a  
morning of many substances than  
you could chemical analyses in  
a weeks hard work.

I have of course returned to  
Mrs West & find her quite  
well. Mr White has not returned  
this session & so Mr Phillips  
besides myself is the only lodger  
This I think will be a decided  
improvement with regard to comfort.

I wish you would not make such  
a fuss, & talk so much about my  
little success last Session, as it  
was not really anything so great  
& I hate to go under false pretences.

By the way I have not heard  
anything more of Maggie Furr.

I suppose that she must have  
returned by this time. I am sorry  
I missed her, & would have called  
had I known when she came  
back to town. Please tell her so if  
you see her.

If you have time I would like  
very much another pair of  
bed-sacks such as you sent last  
winter. I found them exceedingly  
comfortable, & useful not only in  
bed but to put on over my  
slippers when the weather was

Cold.

I have not yet found time to call on any of my friends here but must try to do so soon especially Dr Blyth & Dr Davis. I saw Sir C & Lady Lyell yesterday for a moment at the museum. They have just returned to town, & Sir C. is looking much better than when I saw him last at Keswick.

I intend to send by this post my Cumberland sketch books for your inspection. As I think I told you I found no time for coloured sketches but made a few rough pencil ones which will serve me as mementoes of my summer. You ask where I am reading my "texts" at present. I have been rather

changing about lately, but am quite open to suggestions on the point. if reasonable.

I took a walk across Battersea Park this afternoon & saw for the first time the sub-tropical garden, in which are collected together a number of plants of warm regions which will live outdoors in summer & are kept under glass during the winter. It was very pretty though a good many of the tenderer plants had been already removed.

I saw in the shrubbery of another part of the park a tree of "Pear haws" I recognised it at once from its different habit of growth & superiority of fruit to the English thorn. The boys had found it out & pulled all off that could be reached from the ground.

Yours with love

George.

London 6/4/71  
New Session  
speaks of work  
lab - etc.



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