

London Feb. 25 / 72

My Dear Anna

Last week's letters only

Arrived yesterday (Saturday) & so you see rather late. Many thanks for yours.

Yesterday I had to go to the Bank & on my way there (Omnibus) saw all the preparations going forward for the Thanksgiving on Tuesday next. The decorations are certainly to be on a very large scale. Great stands are going up everywhere. In front of the Claring Cross Hotel a huge one is in progress. St. Martin's Church in Trafalgar Square is nearly buried in a mass of scaffolding & seats. Lesser stands fill every nook & gateway. Nearly all the shop front

windows are cleared out & temporary  
tiers of seats built-up, & every second window  
high & low bears a ticket-wit "Seats 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>"  
Going on towards Temple Bar the preparations  
are even greater. From Charing Cross to  
St. Pauls all the lamp-posts are painted in  
blue & gold & a "Venetian Mast" for  
lanterns erected beside each. In several  
places where houses have been pulled down  
the whole gap is filled wit an immense  
tier of seats. St. Clements Ch. near Temple  
Bar is half smothered in scaffolding & all  
the young trees in the Church-yard are  
branching up through holes among the  
Seats & presenting a most laughable  
appearance. Opposite the Bar Messrs. Welling  
have put-up an immense stand to hold  
I believe some 7000 people. It is 6 ft  
covered wit large & draped wit flags &

illuminated at night. This is on the great vacant-space left for the New Law Courts, Temple Bar itself is in process of being cleaned & painted! The colour is a light grey picked out with gold. It seems rather a shame but the Bar will no doubt very soon come down now & it certainly was looking rather smoky. The gates are also being put in order for here it is that the Queens Herald must knock for admission, & that the Lord Mayor riding down from the City must dismount & present the Keys. At the foot of Ludgate Hill a great triumphal Arch is being put up on a very good design. The situation however seems unhappy for looking up Ludgate Hill the London & S.E. Railway bridge terminates the view rather abruptly, & looking down the bridge stretches right in front of the arch & almost hidden. In Holborn Oldford St & part the Lane & Strand

of preparations are taking place but not quite to so great an extent as that is to be the returning route only. At Kyent-Lemus there is another arch, but I have not seen it. Timbers & Strong posts are in preparation at the openings of all the great side streets leading into the strand. Flut Lt-85. By these the streets will be barricaded nearly across & "uply" rocks permitted. Yesterday along the whole route nothing was to be seen but rushing about with flanks, & beams gasping for illumination & &. Half the things seemed as though they would not be ready in time but no doubt they will manage.

I have not yet heard anything about what Papa wishes done with his microscope stage. Please make a point of asking & let me know as I have now had it a long time.

Th. allied mechanics lectures have been

going on now for some time. They are interesting enough in themselves, but - I fear I do not know enough Mathematics to pass the exam. (at any rate in the first class which is necessary) I have not time to find them up. Last year I went up & only 2 got through. One of the rejected I know was a very clever fellow & has passed his first BSc at London. It was his second trial & he has passed all other exams necessary for the associateship.

I am sorry to have forgotten to write to Nina for so long after her letter. I had a sort of impression that the debt was the other way. For the present please offer my best apologies & say that I will try to write soon.

I am glad to say that my vaccination about which you ask did take, though very mild. It is queer that yours should take so badly in the end after so many vain attempts.

London Feb 1/72  
great preparations  
for Thanksgiving



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