



Philadelphia

Aug 4th 1876.

Dearest Anna,

I have a number of business letters to write this evening, but cannot resist writing a few lines to you first; for I have just received your lovely sketch of the "Nuts house" [and the accompanying letter with its kind good wishes. I did not think, my darling, that you knew the date of my birthday, & I certainly did not expect to be presented with such a pretty picture - prettier by far than anything I have seen in the Exhibition.] It stands on the table in front

of me as I write, and I almost fancy I see my Anna through the window in the left hand corner. The shrubs & trees are exquisitely painted, and when I think that they were painted for me, I am filled with thankfulness that I have such a thoughtful, loving wife. Ah, would that I were more worthy of her! Just think of it, — tomorrow I shall be twenty-eight; and what have I accomplished? Nothing. Surely twenty-eight years ought to have been long enough to make a better & more useful man!

I have received a letter from Mr. Selwyn to-day in which he says that he will send some one down to take my place about the middle of this month (the 13th); in which

case I shall leave here say on
the fifteenth or sixteenth, and
get to Metz as early as possible.
For many reasons it would be
well if I could remain here
a great deal longer in order to
give information about the
geological collection; but on
the other hand I feel that
it is my duty to vulticate for
a little while if I am to be
fitted for my winter's work.
I was tired when I came
here & confusion & excitement
have in no wise tended to
rest me.

I had a very nice letter
from Laura this morning - a
birthday letter written at Como,
where the child has been
spending a few days with
the fibbs. She says that for
a time my mother was quite
discouraged about Mary, but that

according to their last letters
she was improving a little. I
am expecting to get a letter
from Peak's Island soon as
I have only had one since
I came to Philadelphia.

Brinley has sent me no word
about going to Harrisburg; so
I conclude that he has
been unable to leave home
& intends to postpone the
trip until next week.
Possibly he will drive in to
see me to-morrow.

I have had no time for-
sight-seeing since I last
wrote, but have been busy
from morning till night-
addressing & tying up catalogues
for the various commissions.
Yesterday & to-day I have sent
away over four hundred, and
it will take me some time to-
morrow to finish.

All those young men from
Paris who were at our house in Montreal

are here now. I have not seen²
them all, but have met
Mr. Rolland several times.
He leaves here tomorrow en
route for California.

I wrote to Montreal for
some Canadian postage stamps,
which I wished to forward
to you, feeling sure that your
supply must have been exhausted
long ago. In my letter I said
"send me twenty three-cent stamps,"
but the frank has read it
wrongly and sent me twenty-
three cent stamps. They may
however, be of use to you, and
so I send ~~you~~ part of them.
I should like to send you
some money as well, as I
fear your purse is empty by
this time; but I have nothing
here but American currency, so
if you are in need you will

have to borrow & let me pay
your debts when I go to
Metis.

You speak of having received
only two letters from me, &
it seems very strange for I
have written seven or eight.
No doubt they will all reach
you in the course of time;
but there is no accounting for
postal vagaries.

And now darling, with heart-
felt gratitude for the sketch &
especially for your good wishes &
for having remembered your-
husband's birthday

I am

Your loving Bernard
(who hopes, with God's help, to
become a better man than he
has been in the past.)

Saturday
Please tell Dr Dawson that
if Huxley comes to Philadelphia
before I leave, I shall
certainly try & induce him to
come to Montreal before his
return to Europe.

I regret to see by a copy of
the Witness which I have
received from Montreal that
Whiteaves has been appointed
palaeontologist to the Survey.

It is cloudy this morning, but
not & close -

Ever yours B.

