

is to be released
Miss Sum asked me
in a passing way to get the
shirts in Rome. I wanted
to write to ask Mrs. above if
she would be so good
to send me some for answer.
I am so busy not to have time
to write to General for
explain this to Mrs. Beppetto. But
Mrs. Beppetto who writes to me by letter
will think her Miss Sara Albon
will give me some. I am
not sure. I am not
sure but I will
try to write to her
to see if she can
send me some. I
will be glad to
hear from you.
I am
yours
affly
Miss Sum

remember what has & what has
been told before, neither here
nor there. I have time to make any
concentrated plans as to the lines upon
Eva & I are to take - it is always
much more congenial to me to
go to you than I try to hand others
& still that won't do to be a
Courtier rule & I suppose when we
go abroad we shall find more
time to write. I have been trying to see
Miss Sum & Mrs. Beppetto in week of the

week unsuccessfully, & when delay
 so long one is ashamed to send a
 hasty scrap & goes on waiting for a good
 opportunity. Have you heard that Col:
 Noble is about to be married to (I am told)
 a very nice lady, about 35, in Ireland. Also
 Mr. Kes., of Toronto, (whose wife was
 a sister of the Blake's & who died about
 18 months ago, of abscess in the ear,) is to
 be married here on the 26th of December
 to an English girl who has just returned
 from a two months visit to Toronto. The
 Galts are going to the wedding. We dined
 with the Proffatts on Sat: night & heard a
 great deal about Miss Klet. She has become
 quite attached to England & had she known
 of her brother's engagement, wd. have remained
 with an Aunt who was glad to have her.
 Just before she left C. J. wrote to her that
 a rumour was abroad that he was engaged
 to — (whose name Amy said she withheld,
 but that it was a report without foundation)

do not to allow it to interfere with his intention of coming out. They think Miss S. will be heavily stung by the news that awaits her & are really sorry for her. So it goes that one member of a family of mine suffering to Constance & Remkin, at present, is that member in our family. He has not written one line to any of us since we left & we have heard of private rights & life of us who have received letters from him. Last night ^{paper} I got a mere scrap from him in wh. he said, he purposed leaving & must tack by the "Cornish" & if we were still in London he wd. see us at the end of the month. In a letter from S. to papa she says "R. has just been in & but he has not time to write bids me say that he sails on the 17th of the "Parisian". This contradiction suggests guile & evil thoughts & altogether throws papa as to one of his gloomiest moods. I have passed a wretched night although delight & other occupations has now captured his humour, it is really to all of us no small pain to be treated with

such indifference. Our plans have been
 changed as to the time of leaving for the
 Continent on account of the sad & sudden
 death of Sir W. Siemens. We had refused
 all engagements here to go to spend a few
 days with them tomorrow. ^{on acct. of Mrs. illness} We had
 resolved to leave Friday or Sat: of this
 week & without great expense gain a
 few additional days for foreign places,
 as our passages are engaged from Naples
 on the 22^d of Decr. Now R^d's letter disarranges
 many things as we shall wait in the hope
 of seeing him altho' with some, I suppose
 there it looks as if he were trying to avoid
 us. Paper is going to write to him at Mucille &
 beg of him not to linger but hasten on
 here. Wednesday the 28th is the date now
 fixed. Thursday 29th since writing the foregoing
 paper has telegraphed to L'pool & finds that
 there is a new steamer called the "Pamirion"
 wh: is not due in L'pool till Wednesday the 28th
 wh: supposing Rankine quite willing to come directly

on for the sake of seeing us. will inevitably obtain us until Friday the 30th. P. O. E. are very checked that that shd not be done & their opinions I accept as Reverence for me. I can even comfort myself by the reflection that painful collisions may ^{thence} be avoided. Yesterday we lunched with the Misses Stewart - Sir W. Ferguson's nieces - Mrs. J. died 1st Oct. last, & all Mrs. Ker now are 80 years with them, but we did not see her. They are pleasant, simple, elderly ladies & the eldest brother, who was asked to meet us, a grey-headed, middle aged man. Pleasant Bernard there they are greatly pleased with his "Life of his W. L.". They found in it a great deal about their family unknown to them before. Afternoon 20 I made two calls in the same part of the town & found our way back to our home 2 in time to miss Mr. & Mrs. St. Piuskies, because they left by the stairs & we came up by the lift, we threw open the window & carefully beheld them driving away. but here there is no time for regrets we had to hasten our preparations.

for a small invited tea party.
 Being the first day, except Sundays, that
 we did see any one we had asked Mrs &
 Miss Mr. Maxwell - British Columbia - & I
 old friends to tea & were late to take them
 to a Ballad Concert; Papa being engaged
 to Goleys's dinner. Meals are very cheap here
 do we ordered what is called simple tea
 (1/4 each & had brought, at Whitings, cake,
short-bread, & pieces of meat of rapro & had just
 got our little table for four arranged
 when Mr L. Campbell came in, so of course
 we asked him to stay, adding a little round
 table to our Centre and one at a 4 to 4
 we talked with to our Concert. which I hope
 they enjoyed as it was all arranged as a
 return for their kindness to S. & K. Truly Mrs
 King has promised to drive us to Perry Creek
 & we are asked to give of tea at the Stedstroms.
 Tomorrow we have only an eyeing to go
 to see the Reepath's worms at the Temple
 & when nothing else turns up we shall still
 find ourselves very busy re-arranging & packing
 to be ready for a ship to start on Monday night -
 it is so hard to leave without any delay. R.

I sh^d have put in yesterday's doings
 a two hours visit to the Wore gallery in
 the sq. It is leading large pictures ness a
relation in the power of Art. I was wholly
 absorbed & believe I c^d have forgotten time
 or hours. I sat the whole day peering at
 them - it had greatly more power over me
 than the music of the eq. Altes Carlotta Patti's power
^{of voice} was beyond anything I ever heard. Harmonium & C^{on}tra
 to on the violins is wonderful. On the whole
 our time in London has been chiefly spent
 in dining, calling & shopping, every place is from half
 an hour to an hour & a half from every other & we
 have at least spent four entire days in shops
 getting a pretty handful of things. We have at
 least long the experience & will be able to buy
 to greater advantage when we return. Once per
 alle let me say emphatically to take us everything
 you have the best wish to get. After all if we
 live to come home again the purchases will be
 the only tangible remembrance of our travels
 & hope is accumulating stones that must be sent
 us freight do me my just as well. Here some two
 After all expenses things may not be cheap but

they could be better & if not got here wd either
 not be got at all, or got regretfully after our return.
 I have put up a parcel to be sent by Robertson
 & am hoping to send another small one by
 the Fremshields - having missed Mrs S. am uncer-
 tain. All the contents are gifts per Xmas but
 do remember that everything is done in such a
hurry. don't worry about the trouble I like
 to take it for your sake. I shall send Xmas eve
 to you for a very few pence. With some spare
 ones for your pence or if you think I have omit-
 ted any special friend that you may fill the
 omission. I have got one pair Whitley's best
strong stockings (4/2) for you as a sample, also
 some quantity for children (prices marked) plenty
 to be had much cheaper. And were fully as to sitting
 our things & lanes as cheap & good here as in Paris, the
 samples sent are not favourable. We were too
 hurried. Some a mile please accept as a gift.
 Trims: 4³/₄ yd. say if you wd like more. Plenty Madeira
 much some health about 4 yd. I can't find childrens
 ready made clothes at all reasonable. You have I succeed
 in getting anything for Eric so am reduced to sending
 him a good card. Unless best or legins - think
 it a mere toy to dress the small ones are so small. We
 often think things very dear in shops but when examined
 after are so good that we are satisfied. London is the cheap-
 est place. I. has sent me such an admiring epistle not to wish
 me shopping that we have wishes not to make a purchase in