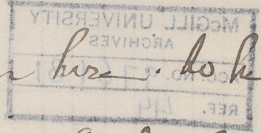


York Hotel, Albemarle St
Nov. 28th 1853.

My dear Mr. Combs

Most unexpectedly
I am again dating from London.
Literally on Monday morning my
strap of our baggage was fastened
& I sat down to an early break-
fast with our travelling classes & Combs
on ready for an immediate start
for Paris. but the mg. was stormy & wet
& Japs, who has had a little cold,
had been so restless the previous night
that I did not myself think it prudent
for him to be exposed, as he might
have been in crossing the Channel, so
while at breakfast we discussed
the pros & cons, & to our astonishment
he quietly assented to remain to see

2 Rankine, saying he had just been
thinking how immature it was to
have before his animal. We had
refused invitations to send goodbyes
to many friends here so that we have
had two days left. Which Eva & I have
improved by spending a day at
South Kensington & another day at
the National Gallery. She also writes
to Katie telling her of our change of
plans & she appeared on Monday aft-
& carried E. off to dine & sleep with her.
I also rashly promised to go with
Katie to the Lake Bazaar & to look into
the Regent St. windows, wh: I greatly
regret on Georg's account. as it may be
gossiped round in Montrose & an-
nues knows who these things may ul-
timately reach. Papa has some writing
that he intended to do in Paris which



instead has occupied him here. He has remained indoors taking only a walk in the best part of each day & he is nearly quite well. The weather is mild & most remarkably quiet for now. Mr. Mappet said that there has been nothing like in the nine years he has lived in London. We have now arrived at Wednesday the day the "Dominion" is due. So we are in the excitement of expectation hoping hourly for a telegram from R. I have been asking him to come on at once but not interfere with the wish of his to stay at Liverpool. Our present intention is to leave on Friday night the 20th & a further delay I fear will put it off.

As I have already told you I have put up one parcel, & sent it to Mr. Robinson's address in Manchester, to await his last visit there before sailing. It contains various things as Xmas presents to you & will distribute I hope with more grace than the mode of wrapping will indicate them to be worth. A second parcel I have sent to Miss Mac Donnell now a guest with

Mrs King because we found that she
 was sending a jacket to her sister, by Mrs R.
 Prunehill, & had got a notice to pack it
 in, giving Mrs R. G. the use of half of it per her
 kindness in taking it. I take her that I
~~will~~ ask you to send to W^m MacCamel's per
 the parcel on Mrs G's animal. This was in
 writing & supposing that we were leaving
 she did not answer, so I do not whether it
 may not be taken home by Mrs G.; either
 way after the animal if it does not turn
 up you may ask about it. In it I put
 a couple of stockings - the best I could get of strong
useful knitting ones. I compared yours with
 some I bought for myself at the Co-op at
 3/9. 0 pound yours to be rather so fine but heav-
 ier & stronger knitting. So will be glad if
 you will finally decide & let me know
 before we return. I've bought good Union
 chausers & uppers, flannel, (knitted I mean)
 per 10/ per suit. Yours size - but be rather
 chaus. We also saw these down quises.

4 put by 3. Covered with Satin per
 16/. They greatly tempted me but for
 the packing. There is another article
 used much here for the part of beds
 or Jaga's Covers, Austrian blankets - they
 are blankets only coloured or with pretty
 stripes. They are at all prices but a good
 medium one can be got at Co. of per 12/6.
 We are leaving all our purchasing
 until Spring as we have matters
 to bestow our goods. So again be sure
 you send a complete list of wants it
 will make it so much easier for us,
 or I hope more acceptable to you if I shall
 choose to make any portion of the things
 a gift & save the fatigue of thinking
 what will be acceptable. All that you
 receive by parcels are sent as gifts - small
 ones but please receive them with more
 love. If you only knew how I long to
 get things (chess & now refer to) that I see in
 the shop windows. Oh for a parcel post!!

6
8
Only yesterday I noticed an elegant
Dolman, of sea brown cloth, with a
draped plush Cape for 2. guineas which
I thought wd make Florence look lovely
over her brown dress. — The Sunday is the
hats & hair. The hairsts, or hairsts as they
are called here, are seldom made up.
One guinea additional is the usual
charge per making it. Materials can
be got at low prices but the making
is quite as expensive & difficult to get
satisfactorily done, except you go to the
wholesale permed dress makers. This
is the testimony of all we have asked.
We think London a cheaper mart than
L'pool. I have observed bonnets quite
equal to my 2. guinea one for about 2/1.
or 25/. I have since nothing as yet to
Florence about purchasing for her. Certainly
household things, in hardware, curtains, table
Covers, bed linen &c &c are most tempting. It
would be charming if some one wd send

pischa fold up as a handkerchief & so
 is convenient for fancy or travel & I think
 it suits me. We also have sent George
 a beautiful large female head prematurely
 but made haste to say that it was that
 he mt. have it pressed in time to present
 it to himself by Xmas. Eric & I are just
 about to start for Westminster. I will leave
 this open hoping to be able to tell something of
 Rankine before having to move.

Thursday. Rankine has been five
minutes in one parlour & has
 gone to make up — The mail
 comes or rather the news close
 within a few minutes. The
 one piece of news he has given us
 is the snow-bur on the Channel
 has had a crop. Does this
 Arise you are indeed having the
 hail & hunch of the day! So well by
 day. God bless & preserve & guide you
 Believe me ever your ^{old} friend
 Mathew