

I have got a very  
aching to do before  
going to bed to really  
must sleep good =  
right - ~~Christie~~ to Bernard  
to Eric. I think ~~that~~  
for we like to spend  
Paris. I wish do hold  
party at Clare - not  
happy. Kiss them  
a happy new year  
put me. I believe  
me - ever yours  
with Mother.  
These thanks also for  
Cord from you. Love  
to all.

per Alexandria. We have as you know  
seen a good deal in the four weeks  
we have now been in France. I think  
I have made of as hard work as ever I  
did in my life - but of a kind that I shall  
never regret taking as I do not think it  
will do me any permanent injury. The  
advice I have got from George & from  
you amuses me. You speak as if I was  
leader of the party or ever had some con-  
trol of it whereas we are accompanying  
George & will never dream of objecting to any  
thing he proposes. I do hope we may have  
a smooth passage - the sea at best is  
a matter of endurance - but if we escape  
being sick it will be a good net. Now

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2  
as I have forgotten for weeks past to notice  
your proposition to have a lining waist fitted  
as a guide for dressmaking in London. I think  
it is a wise plan. It will be such a pleasure  
if we succeed in getting you a well fitted  
dress. I shall expect a full list of wants as  
you promise before we return to England.  
Although I have not sent anything of value  
for Egypt to you I think I must be some  
member of the family of houses we leave  
tomorrow (Sat. the 29th) for Alexandria & go direct  
to Cairo. Pater has got introductions to a num-  
ber of influential people there who are in  
a position to give sound advice as  
to how far it may be safe to go & he will  
be guided by them. For some time we  
have had nothing but newspapers accounts  
wh. are never to be depended upon. Undoubt-  
edly there is still a great deal of feeling  
amongst the common people against for-  
eigners. I have told Clarence how we  
spent Xmas day. In the new circumstances  
we did not forget you but tried to picture



what you will be doing at different  
 hours through the day. We did not receive  
 home letters till Thursday but they brought  
 so many reminiscences of home that it was  
 like a kind of repetition of what we  
 them. May I beg sincere thanks for your  
 long & ever welcome letter. Miss Sordley's  
 death is sad. Mr. Craig's disgrace almost  
 worse. I wish Mrs. Ell's shot not be wholly  
 without sympathy. We are now having  
 friends with Mrs. Sheldon Stephens who  
 with her husband, two boys (seven & five)  
 & a governess are staying here for the winter.  
 She is a Pale & seems a well educated sensible  
 woman. Her elder boy had a dangerous  
 attack of Bright's disease & they have come  
 here on his acct. - he is still a great in-  
 valid but the disease is quiescent & if  
 kept so medical men say in year or a half or  
 two years he will outgrow it. We went  
 to the great Aquarium together yesterday &  
 being gone to among with some Prof.



there per specimens per one little Museum  
 afterwards we three went off together  
 to walk about the town & shop. First  
 we visited a Coral Shop where were all  
 kinds of lovely things at high prices. Then  
 an Art one, chiefly bronzes where we saw  
 beautiful jugs, bases, statues &c in various  
 stages - passing through the workmen's hands  
 I believe they are not cheap for bronzes but  
 as I have since been an admirer of bronzes  
 I did not feel tempted by the prices asked  
 later in <sup>the</sup> day we thought better of it &  
 returned with paper & made some  
 purchases as we found we cd get them  
 packed with paper specimens & forwarded  
 to Liverpool. He also bought a number  
 of photos per Atkinson's eyes. & a few terra  
 cotta figures. So you see shopping is  
 after all is not wholly ignored. But  
 to go on with our own experience - glows  
 next occupied our time - Mrs Stephens  
 assuring us that they were very cheap but  
 the process by wh. you get them cheap is far



too long & tiring to be worth "the Crawl"  
 They begin by asking three times the value  
 of each article. The Customer has to  
 haggle & chaffer over each pair. Some  
 times when a lower price was offered they  
 wd snatch the gloves out of ones hands  
 & bury them amongst the hairpulls so  
 that it took five minutes to find the  
 shade & size wanted. In one or two of  
 the three shops success was visited the  
 gloves were not good so after an hour  
 & a halfs hard fight we got I think four  
 pairs one of wh: the finds had & I got  
 one pair per paper wh: I find two small  
 although numbered as he wanted &  
 none per myself altho' I am actually  
 in need of a pair per immediate use.  
 By all accts this is a sample of how  
 all business is carried on here. It takes  
 an afternoon to do one piece of business sat  
 is factually. & afters it is done your moral tone  
 is at zero



To proceed huckwads like the crab - on  
 Wednesday we went in the morn'g by  
 train to Pompeii & were on foot all day  
 traversing its wonderful streets & examining  
 its Theatre, its Public Baths, its Forum,  
 the houses of the richer people with  
 their beautifully preserved walks & pillared  
 gardens - saw the manners of the ladies  
 of wh: one has to often read the par-  
 ticulars how that each one had been  
 habited. By far the greater part of the  
 precious mosaics & all the gold precious  
 stones household articles & various in-  
 struments &c &c have been placed in  
 a museum here in the City. We spent  
 nearly all today in it per hiesus Pom-  
 peian things there are immense  
 galleries of statues, paintings, old  
 Roman houses - the most interesting  
 but awfully tiring, however it is



the last for a while. We leave  
 Naples with the feeling that there  
 is still much to see especially  
 in its neighbourhood. It is beauti-  
 ful as a whole & especially so from a  
 distance but it takes Mark Twain  
 to describe its streets & their inhabitants  
 here Scary in his old humour he  
 tho' it do something towards drawing  
 its picture & yet after is said that  
 the Church can say nothing short of  
beholding its teeming thousands of muddy  
 mixture pouring through its narrow streets  
 the Can Country any idea of it.

I have a beautiful Swiss Case & a  
 nice kind letter from Miss Macdonald  
 by last mail. I shall endeavour to  
 make use of your hint as to writing  
 her but I believe & you are the utmost  
 I can compass this time indeed I fear  
 I am hopelessly incoherent. I have  
 some curiosity to know how it finds the



Wills monthly income meet the demands  
 of housekeeping. I am very much grieved  
 to hear of Miss Barber's accident. I trust the  
 effects may pass away without affecting  
 permanently her weak spine - her hope is  
 so devoted to good works & it wd be most  
 pleasing to me if she wd concentrate her  
 powers on the work at the jail. She is pecu-  
 liarly well fitted for it. I am also sorry  
 for Mrs Carpenter. I wd think myself  
 much obliged if I were obliged to have  
 a finger lanced. Please best love & think  
 to <sup>the</sup> ~~me~~ nice Cards, including paper & Ence.

Another source of sorrow to me is to hear  
 as I did from Rankine that Bernard  
 is so overworked. Is it not possible to  
 lessen it in any way - Ed. no outside  
 help he got. This seems so much  
 to us - from our holding that it  
 makes one feel verily guilty & glad  
 if money wd ward off all ill consequences  
 that our accrue. We are spending  
 such oceans upon our own pleasure.