

Be Lato. Lanesmah. Pa:

December 29th 192

Dearest George

your recommendation
~~is~~ to keep before us the W. Indies
 as a desirable resort is quite in
 order as on Christmas ^{day} we were
 treated to a Cold rain-storm, Monday &
 Tuesday to pass, yesterday to Lumbre Cold
 weather, this morn to a heavy frost, altho'
 now the sun has broken forth various-
 ly but it will take a good deal of his pre-
 sence to restore the temperature to its
 previous gentility. I have used all this
 to induce papa to reconsider the desirability
 of this spending part of our winter time

in some part where a more stable
 climate ~~is~~ he desired, but he remains
 firm to his decision to keep to the
 mainland. This cold has in no way
 affected him imperceptibly, we have
 been watching to Clinton's manner &
 have been much inclined. Our room
 is towards the South & we have plenty
 of artificial heat from a coil of hot water
 pipes. He before this has been walking -
 climbing & writing just as usual & to me
 looks as well as before he was ill - there
 is only one anxious symptom manifest
 & that is that his feet & legs continue to
 swell, particularly his right leg. As I have
 been told that in similar cases it is usually
 the left foot & leg that swell ~~most~~ I think
 this peculiarity of its being his right one

must arise
 from his left-handedness. He has
 written to Mr Beckwith about this
 swelling & he may give advice that
 may prove useful, should the weather
 here, this winter, follow the usual line
 this cold spell is the worst I last think
 may be expected, indeed it has been
 quite the coldest experienced for many
 years & we are going on to try & get
 on feet there we shall find the Camellias
 & other flowers we have been enjoying
 destroyed by the frost - we see from
 our windows that the hedges are killed
 & the palms look discoloured. However
 this cold to us personally is a small affair,
 the damp & the warm weather requires
 some consideration & I think it not

unlike, there we may try Stomachills
 of which we have heard favourably
 from those who have had long expe-
 rience of heretic waters. There is an
 excellent one hold there but I don't think
 that the de facto can stand second only
 to the one at St. Augustine.

During these halcyon making days
 it has comforted us to think of you
 as again in touch with family life — but
 you must not, even in the unseen times
 mean permit yourself to think that you
 don't like — & there both giving & receiving
 pleasure. It rejoiced me to know that
 your quiet voyage afforded you a
 resting time & I trust the brief changes
 & intercourse with these few, would
 a beneficial change — if not a cure. For I am

Live your life in London is anything
 but pleny. I am reading, "Nouvelles
 de la lettre" & altho that does not closely
 correspond to your present experiences
 it is so much nearer to it than our
 home life that it brings me nearer
 in my ignorance & even general knowledge
 of what is occupying you than I otherwise
 would be. But here I must pause to
 tell you that I am writing with a
 new stylographic pen that ever has done
 me. I have to go back over very third
 word to get an ink but it fails to
 deposit on its first passage. I am
 always in a fidget about pens I must
 accept the adage that, "a head shows
 his age an ill book". as applicable to
 myself. Still I must cheer myself

a me hit by saying, that when I do
 get a pen three days one I find it
 much easier to write well. I am going
 to pursue with this one because I
 am hopeful it will improve, and
 please make some allowance for the
 absence of a quiet place.

So far as we have been enabled to observe,
 since here is observed by a liberal allowance
 of family gifts & certainly by a licence of
 noise, bonfires & fireworks to be go on
 the streets that most are here among us
 no here aroused our indignation. The
 pretty square upon wh. we look has been
 invaded, for a week past, by a horde
 of boys who have lighted large bonfires -
 blown the Caroline trumpets - & hummed
 crackers like hail on Monday night

During a short cessation of the rain
 had a really fine display of fire works.
 Next morning I counted 76. Cases of rockets
 & stars - Cases lying in front of our house.
 The square is devastated, but an affair
 is at work restoring as far as possible
 the damages, but this savagery is evidently
 a licensed Dutch Carnival. The few days
 inclement has enabled your father
 to get on swimmingly with "Saline
 Paints." He has mailed the first air
 Chap: for publication, this with proofs
 of another portion of his "Museum Notes",
 daily correspondence &c keep him in
 pleasant occupation for all the hours
 he can spare from his air duty.
 There is also a good fair library here
 of wh: he is making use - to determine
 has not exhausted its charms for no.

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altho' all that its surrounding Company
can yield ~~seems~~^{is} all have been visited
we have made no acquaintances as we
never go to the Drawing room, had I had
ever with me, as in former travels I wd
have been full of ladies gossip but I am
as fully occupied & as much pleased
to make our room the "living room"
as paper is.

one word before closing about Rankin
from whom I have lately received a letter
in which he says that he is in constant
badly suffering & in an obscure way
might infer that he had been in London
since your return there - if so will you
please openly tell me, either as a private
Confidence or otherwise, what you really
think of his physical & mental state. Write
our united love to yourself & earnest hope that
all prosperity may descend from your best work
marian I am as ever your affectionate Mother