

AL/1886

Bedford College

30<sup>th</sup> May 1884

My darling Mother

A few minutes ago I got your telegram. Happily there is no need for it now, as the Newnham's were going to Corsham yesterday.

Of course I'm startled & don't know what it means, but I hope I've done nothing. I ought not to, in going to the Health Exhibition with them.

On Monday morning I got a note from Aunt Anna asking me to go to tea that evening. After what you had written, I

naturally had no hesitation about going & went accordingly. I saw her & Edith, but Uncle Edward did not come in till ~~late~~ rather late from Brighton where he had been to see his sister. Aunt Anna had said something about going to the Health Exhib, & ~~when Uncle~~ gave me a sort of half invitation to go with them which Uncle Edward repeated when he came in. I said I would go, - I hope ~~that~~ I did not do wrong, - I did remember afterwards something you had said about Uncle E. not being a very desirable character, but you had never seemed before very strict about who I went anywhere with & I did not think you would

object. I suppose I should have written beforehand to tell you I was going, but I have never been in the way of doing that here, you know.

Well Uncle Edward brought me back here that evening, & insisted on paying for my ticket, - I mean, he got it & would not let me pay him.

On Wednesday I went to their lodgings at about two, & then we went by underground to Kensington & into the Health Exhib. We stayed there till about 9.0, & then came back by underground, I got out at Baker Street, & left them to go on.

I stuck to Aunt Anna all the time & part of the time Uncle Edward

was with us, part not. He got me a little tea & then afterwards we had dinner, - shilling dinner.

I tried to make them let me pay for the ticket & entrance, & they would not let me, so I said no more about it & did not offer for dinner &c.

There, I think I've told you all about all ~~has~~ I've had to do with them. Aunt Anna was very nice & Uncle Edward rather jolly & pleasant in his way but much given to the use of "strong language", & he certainly drank a good deal of beer, but certainly no effects were visible.

I went in smoking carriages with them, - of course they asked if I minded, but I said on the whole I preferred the smell of tobacco to that of the Underground!

In any case from what I saw

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on Wednesday I would <sup>con v</sup> ~~not~~  
have cared ~~much~~ to go anywhere  
with them again, - but I must  
say I was not exactly sorry that  
I had been.

Now I won't say sorry more  
about it, unless you wish me to.  
Of course now I'm sorry I went.

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We have holiday here on Whit  
monday, & Aunt Rebekah has  
asked me to go to Godstone from  
Saturday to Tuesday. She also  
asked me to bring a friend, so  
I have invited Norah Suttell, a  
girl from Bridport, a niece

intelligent girl, very much interested in politics & a great Radical. We leave here to-morrow soon after four, & come back before 10 on Tuesday.

On Wednesday I got a note from Miss Hutchinson asking me if I could take a class in the Friends' School next Sunday but of course I could not, as I had told Aunt Rebekah I was going to Godstone.

Yesterday morning I got a jolly box of flowers from Kate from Westerlea.

On Tuesday Miss Martin had her "At home" for part &