

AL/1872
Bedford College.
April 29th, 1883

Dear Mother and Father,

Many thanks for all the letters
&c. I have had this week. I'm
sorry I forgot to acknowledge the
parcel which I received safely, -
also the Caesar. I saw Alick addressed
both, & thank him for it. He &
I seem hardly ever to see each
other now. We must try to make
up for it when we do meet.

How you must like having the
holidays all together now, for I
suppose you won't be as hard-worked
with petitions as you were in our
holidays, & with the three youngest
all at leisure, there will be fine
times.

I think I told you that I went to a Missionary Sermon by Hugh Stowell Brown on Wednesday.

It was in Bloomsbury chapel, & we had to walk right along New Bedford Street & Holborn to get to it, - a part of London I did not know before. The chapel is a funny square building, & was adorned with flowers. Mr. Brown was not like what I expected, - he was a bluff farmer looking old chap, but preached a very good sermon on Paul's Missionary Work, & made the people laugh tremendously once or twice.

After the service we went on to the Baptist Mission House in Castle Street. That showed me some more of Holborn: it has quite a different look from Oxford Street & Regent Street, it is so much more bustling & business like. We came back in an omnibus.

Miss Ashdown would not let me go to the Missionary Meeting on Thursday evening, as I was not strong enough, "under medical treatment" &c.

Nothing much has happened since, except that this afternoon I went a very jolly walk. We went down through Grosvenor Square to Piccadilly, & thence ~~thru~~ the past St. James's to Westminster. Along Parliament Street, where sentries were guarding the Local Government Office, & we saw guard relieved in a ceremonious manner. We saw the new Bronze statue of Lord Beaconsfield, at the base of which was a good deal of vegetable matter in an advanced stage of decomposition. Presumably it had been primroses.

The statue is rather a fine one, I thought, & and a good many people were standing before it. Then we went into the Abbey where service was going on, but as there were no vacant seats we came out again, & walked past the

Houses of Parliament to the Embankment where we rested on a seat for some minutes.

Then we came back here, much the same way as we came, but thro' the Green Park & Hyde Park, part of the way.

It was very jolly & though I was rather tired, I enjoyed it almost more than any walk I have had in London. I was by no means too tired, and am staying in this evening to rest.

Hyde Park Corner looks so different now the "Duke" has come down. No doubt you have heard about it being removed, but it has been amusing to watch him getting gradually lower, & the horse looked so funny & stiff peering out of a mass of scaffolding, as if it were a cage. He has not quite gone yet, but to-day he had got down to the level of ordinary mortals, & though still large looked, as might be expected, less imposing.

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reasons in a letter, & I shall be perfectly satisfied if you say I had better wait till I can talk it over with you. But please tell me.

I have got a ticket for the Presentation for Degrees at Burlington House on May 9th. Lucy Morland is to be presented & has already hired her gown. Several other girls from here are going with me to see it.

We have a holiday on Whit Monday, & I don't know what to do with it: they will probably go from here to a gallery, or perhaps Kew Gardens, but it would be nice to get out of London. Is there any one I could offer a visit to?

Now with very, very much love to yourselves, the boys, & Gertrude

I wish you would tell me whether you have any particular objection to my walking down Regent Street or Oxford Street on Sunday afternoon if I want to get somewhere at the other end. Miss Ashdown will not allow it, & considers it much more safe & proper for "young girls" to go thro' the Parks, where, I imagine, the people are more numerous & idler.

Another thing I want to ask you about is this: One of the girls is anxious to go some time to the Meeting house or whatever it is of the "Positivists" or "Humanists", of whom as you may know Mr Beesly our Latin Master is a leading spirit, & she wants me to go with her. I know you will say I may go if I like, but I want you to advise me. I don't expect you to give