

London 10 - 20 1884

Craven Hotel 9 P.M.

My dear wife,

When I last wrote
you, it was in great haste
just before I left for the
Isle of Jersey and I sup-
posed it to be my last
opportunity before leaving for
home - But it is ordained

to be otherwise as I found
at noon today on inquiry
at the Consular office there
would be no ship for Boston
this week and as that obliges
me to stay longer than I cal-
culated to I have been obliged

to cable to John through the
aid of the American Exchange
in Europe, a company formed
expressly to aid and assist
Americans travelling abroad -
having a reading room
containing the principal Amer-
ican papers etc and all
letters can be sent in
their care and you can
arrange with them to for-
ward to any address
letters, baggage etc. Any
valuables or any purchases
made of articles which
you do not wish to
have the care of and
wish to avoid the an-

royance of customhouse
offices on the continent
you can deposit with
them for safe keeping.

These charges are very
moderate. For the benefit
of post office, reading-
room and some other
advantages, charges for
our month of \$2.00.

On the voyage we
made the acquaintance of
a Mr A. B. Dixon who
was returning to India
and we were together
for ten days. As he had
been in London several
times found his company

and knowledge of London
very pleasant. He sailed
from Liverpool for India
on the 11th inst. I invited
me to go to India with
him - but I told him I
would be obliged to de-
cline his kind invitation
as I would be obliged
to return home soon.
The journey is only 30
days from Liverpool. He
is a native of Beverly, Mass.,
has been itinerant for
some years and is now
interested in tea growing
in India, is a widower,
42 years old, has several

children whom he has left
with his mother at Beverly.
He hopes in six or eight
months to return to America
for good and if so we will
receive a call from him
some day. He is a little
abrupt but very kind
hearted and the day he
left he wanted me
to accept a loan of
10 £ or \$50. as he was
afraid I would not have
enough money to carry
me through with. I
thanked him but declined
and he then hoped I
would excuse the offer.

I have promised to write
to him when I get back
to America as he said
he would like very
much to hear from me.
Saturday 4th inst., Mr. Diver
and I went to Hampton
Court Palace at Hampton
Court a town 15 miles
from London, approached
by cars from Waterloo
Station on the South
Western R.R. Fares
50¢, 37¢ and 30¢ a. b. & c.
1st, 2nd and 3rd class.
The Palace was originally
built by Cardinal Wolsey
in red brick and battlements.

mounted walls and was afterwards ^{presented} by him to King Henry VIII with whom he was a great favourite.

It was subsequently occupied by Cromwell, the Stuarts, William III, George I and II. Since the time of

George II, the Palace has ceased to be the royal residence and is now

occupied by prisoners of the Crown. Has told

there is now forty three prisoners living at the

Palace, widows of men who have in one way or another disting -

wished themselves. There
is a picture gallery, the
great hall, garden, winery
maze etc to be seen.

There are many pictures
occupying in all some
24 rooms. The garden is
pretty laid out in
the French style and
there are three walks
running from the walk
in front of the Palace
at acute angles to each
other said to be each
a mile in length. The
winery, is a grape vine
growing under glass planted
in 1769. The branches

spread upwards to more than 100 ft- and yield about 2500 bunches of grapes. The maze is a puzzle formed by bushes, similar to those puzzles found in old young folks magazines in which you start from some place at the outside of the figure and endeavor to reach the center by following regular spaces etc.

The time which might be required to walk about in the maze endeavoring to find your way out-

is too indefinite unless
under the direction of a
guide who stands on
an elevated platform and
directs you and then
the shortest way out
is several hundred yards.
After doing the Palace we
went to the King's Arms
Hotel for lunch and
there made the acquaintance
of a Mr and Mrs
Dean of Richmond, a
place about seven miles
from Hampton Court.

After lunch we enquired
of Mr and Mrs Dean
the best way to reach

New Gardens and if we
could also get any
conveyance to the gardens
from Hampton Court. They
suggested a carriage,
which was found and
hired for 7/ \$1.75. As they
happened to be going in
that direction they agreed
to go with us if we
would promise to go
with them to their
house and dine. All
being agreeable we started
off at a little before
3 for New Gardens
and the house of Mr
and Mrs Dean. We

rode from Hampton Court
through Richmond Park
by Star and Garter Hotel
to New Gardens, dis-
missing the carriage, we
then walked through the
gardens and took a
train to their home.

Arrived at 6.30 and
took train for London
at 9. Found them
very agreeable and at
just before dinner was
introduced to Mr Dean's
son, Harry, a young
man about 25, in
business with his father,
Dean & Son, Auctioneers

and real estate agents,
Office in London. The Herbarium
Gardens or Botanic Gardens
are very interesting. There
are numerous hot-houses for
ferns, orchids, cacti etc.

Particularly interesting are
the following; Palm House,
Water Lily House, Tropical
House, Victoria Regia
Tank etc. There is also
a pleasure ground of
270 acres and many
trees of great variety
all labeled making it very
interesting to any one
at all interested in
botany. He spent an

hour and a half there
when I could have
spent a week and
in that time could
hardly say I had
seen all as there
was so much to
interest me.

Have seen so
much in London I should
take me two or three days
to write about all places
visited. I'll write a few
lines more and then retire as
it has just struck twelve.

Have been to the
Heralds College or College of
Arms where there are

valuable genealogical records.

It is formerly the town house
of the Earls of Derby and
was rebuilt in 1683. If

I had six months to spare
and could stay here would
find no difficulty in
spending it at the British
Museum and Brasenose College.

Have been to St. Pauls,
Westminster Abbey, Houses
of Parliament, National
Gallery, South Kensington
Museum, Health Exhibition,
Natural History Museum,
India Museum and
have seen columns, statues
monuments, parks, gardens

and many other places and things too numerous to mention just now.

London is quite new but the buildings all look old as they are so blackened with smoke.

Most of the principal buildings have been erected within the past century.

Population in 1881, 3,814,577

7,400 streets, 1,000,000 gas

lamps, 528,794 buildings

1,400 churches etc, etc.

With love and best wishes for all inquiring friends, love to all at 894 and much love for my dear wife and our son I am your affectionate

Wm. A. Ames.
prebend -