

My dear Mr. Woodhead

Fairfax Library
27 Wilkes Street
London E.W.3.
533
2100

I need not tell you how glad I was to receive all your letters. I had only one fault to find with them, they were too short. Do write more soon. I want to hear all about everything, and after telling me all about games, I want particularly to know every thing that takes place in connection with the ship. I am very glad to hear that Tom begins to like being at Cross St better than he did at first. I shall expect a long letter from him by the next mail. I am so sorry I forgot to say good bye to Mr. Holroyd. Will you tell him so and say good bye to him for me. If you will write to Mr. Woodhead, Mr. Moons head clerk in S pool he will always let you know when a ship is starting for here and then you can send me some newspapers free of cost. I believe it only costs 3 to send a stamped paper by the Brazilian steamer and I should be very glad if you would always send me the latest one you can get hold of by it. In the matter of parcels, I shall not send you any more by the Lady Sale this time, as I do not like to bother Mr. Beatty by asking him to go with me to buy one, and I cannot manage it by myself. However soon as I begin to speak the language a little I will be on the look out. Mr. Youse was telling me that in an expedition which he made to the other side of the island

he saw a flock of wild ones, but these
are not nearly so many here as on the
main land or indeed of any kind of
wild animal or bird. I will see if I can
get you a few root on to, but I am
doubtful. There would be no difficulty in
keeping it alive in the town, but I am afraid
it would ~~live~~ ^{die} during the voyage home.
The atmosphere in the town is just as clean
as that in the country, as far as there is no
smoke, but the little which proceeds from the
wood fires used for cooking purposes. I am sure
it would bother any English cook to prepare
a dinner on the fire which serves all the
cooks, as in his private home he has to go through
the kitchen to get to the dining room. I see at least
two the fire place is a sort of box without
ends, many of buds are placed on a single
slab raised a convenient height from the floor
in the top of this box are two round holes
into which pans are fitted, and as far as I
can see that is all the convenience they
have for cooking. The smoke has to find
its way out of the roof as best it can.
Our dinner generally consists of soup, hashed
beef served in a pie dish and covered with
sprinkled potatoes, a sweet tongue or if not the
latter hashed chicken, and what are denoted
by the name of beef steaks, but they no
more resemble what they are called than
beef steaks ^{cooked nice and a fine flavor what I mean} do.
I have had capon puddings or stewed bananas.
I think I told you in my last letter that

there was a tortoise and my small children
struggled with it. I saw they are gone home
in the 'Lady Gale' for which I am exceedingly
glad. I saw a great quantity of fine plants,
the other night they looked very pretty, although
about amongst the trees. The light they emit
is not continuous and not brighter than
a glow worm. It looked very curious to see
a small light suddenly appear in the air
in about 6 feet as it nearly disappears. I have
only seen two humming birds as yet, one was
a very bright green color, but it flew so
quickly past me that I could not catch a
glimpse of it. The bees here are very
large, the size of my middle finger, and the
queen that I have seen appears to have wings
but I was not certain as I could not catch
one. In one of the short ramblers I have
taken I found a crossing of the large ant hills
it was about 4 feet high and the shape of a
Indian loaf, but I did not see any of the
inhabitants. There is one very common kind
of ant here about three times the size of all
the rest, nameless. There are always a score
or two on the tea table, and they always
make the mean basin, it is quite im-
possible to keep them out, they do not sting
or bite at all, and I am now getting used
to them. There must be a great general
consumption of insects here. I generally put
3 or 4 out of my bread in the morning and
have no doubt that I eat a good many more
than I see. it would not suit a vegetarian

at all. In revenge for this I suppose the
mosquitos do not play on the basis of their at-
tacks upon me. But to put too fine a point
upon it they are most infernal things. I
should not care so much about them, if only
if they would only do it quietly, but you can
hear them when they are about 2 feet from
you making a noise something like the buzzing
of a summer horn fly when it gets into your
ear. One morning when I was half awake I
thought I heard a peal of bells, but when
I was fully awake I immediately recognized it
as the chorus of a company of mosquitos.

Christmas day here was beautifully and warmly
thermometered 84 on the shade. I seldom see it below
that figure or above 86. In the forenoon I fell in with
Captain Cook and went and lunched with him
on board the Lady Sale. Mr Wilcox gave a small
but very nice dinner party in the afternoon to
which I went. In the evening I played at whist
I thought a great deal of you and longed to be
amongst you all. Mr Ede is a particularly
nice man. Should he settle in the neighbourhood
of Manchester. I hope the connexion may be
kept up. I go to his house 3 or 4 nights out of the
week. It seems very strange in December to be
sitting with all doors and windows open and
not infrequently a wind through the room strong
enough to blow out the candles.