

Greenwich Aug. 23. 1864.

My dear Madame, Littrou

It is now some time since I received, to my very great pleasure, the photographs of yourself and M. Littrou, and your daughter; and I have been quite unhappy that this so much valued token of your kind remembrance has been so long unacknowledged.

But I hope you will forgive me when I tell you that I have been, occasionally, very unwell: and my time and thoughts have been almost unceasingly engaged upon an event very soon to happen in our own family, the marriage of our eldest daughter. There have been so many letters to be written to friends and relations, that when I have had time and strength, all has been bestowed upon them.

But, by dint of perseverance, and my girls' help, I have at last an hour's leisure today: and the weather this day is so cold and

wish that we are all confined to the house.

We were very much delighted with the arrival of your photographs, and beg to thank you most truly for remembering our great wish to possess them. We think them all good likenesses, except in the fault common to all photographic portraits, of making the person look so old!

Your daughter, who is so young and so pretty, looks much too old in the photograph. Still, there is a reality in these sun-pictures which cannot be obtained in any other way. I am quite delighted to have them. They remind us of the time, which we always look back to with pleasure, when we first had the good fortune to make you a acquaintance.

I know not if you remember our three girls separately. It is the eldest of the three, whom we are now going to lose. ~~But~~ She is engaged to a clever and amiable man, Mr Routh, at present a Fellow and Tutor of St. Peter's College, Cambridge.

He was the "Senior Wrangler" of his year (1854). Our dear Hilda's future home will be at Cambridge, where we already have many friends ready to welcome her kindly amongst them. One of her brothers our second son, is there, now studying Medicine: and her youngest brother is going also to college in October: So that she will still seem to have part of her old home near her. This both to her and to them is a great happiness.

The wedding-day is fixed for the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month. We expect a large party of friends and relatives on the occasion, and there are many little arrangements to think of and settle beforehand.

It is a sad trial and grief to think of losing our dear child from among us: yet we feel so much affection for her future husband, and so much confidence in him, that we believe her happiness will be as secure with him as any earthly thing can be.

The newly-married pair will make their wedding tour into Switzerland, if all be well. They will have to return about the first week in October, and will then commence their residence at

Cambridge. Hilda begs me to give you her kind remembrances, and to say that it will be a great pleasure to her, if you ever make another visit to Cambridge, to receive you in her own house.

Our old friend the Master of Trinity College (Dr. Whewell) who is Hilda's godfather, is coming to perform the marriage ceremony.

I hope that you and M. Litton and your daughter are in good health.

We are all well now: but have suffered from bronchial coughs which began in spring, and have lasted almost through the summer.

We require to be strong and well to get through the business of next week.

Mr. Ains desires his respectful compliments. And with my own and my daughters' kind remembrances to M. Litton, yourself, and Melle Litton, believe me

yours very sincerely  
Richard Ains