

27. Went into the City on my way home from Clapham. Called on M Clay, & M F. Harford. Returning home over Westminster Bridge, my man got the carriage entangled between two waggons in the middle of that dangerous & scandalous pass; got away with only the carriage step twisted off: but a narrow escape of my life; & yet this state of things has been allowed to go on from year to year, while hundreds & hundreds of thousands pounds are annually squandered on that absurd edifice yclypt the Houses of Parliament: nations like some individuals seem to reserve their average stock of absurdity for some special occasion.

Wednesday. A fine day. Wrote lots of letters & cleared up all arrears. Very unwell; not recovered from the fatigue of Friday—the emotions of Saturday—& the fright of yesterday!—

29. Thursday. M Beckles called & took away the bones of the Pelorosaurus, fern-leaf, & every scrap of stone that belonged to him: did not offer me a single duplicate! Mr. Dinkel called & I paid him £4. .3 for drawings on wood.

30. Suffering the last two nights from neuralgia & spasms. Wrote to Reginald & sent him newspapers. In the evening Mr. Alfred Woodhouse called, & we went up the river to Kew: called on Mr Hannay; a lovely moonlight evening. Returned by Omnibus soon after ten.

31. Letter from Prof. Silliman. M Lee brought other engravings.

August 1. A very hot day. Went with my sister to the Cemetery at Norwood. Called on M Taylor in Vassal Road, and looked at some of his beautiful chalk fossils. Went to the Athenaeum in the evening: met Dr. Arnott: walked home.

2. *Monday*. Letter from Reginald, of July 14th. Called on Mr Tomes & examined bone sections under the microscope.

5. Thursday. A most lovely day. Went to Clapham. At one with Mrs Allnutt (in her carriage) to the opening meeting of the New Crystal Palace at Penge Hill, Sydenham for which tickets had been sent me to witness the erection & inauguration of the first column. A brilliant party had assembled; some ten thousand persons must have been present. The view was enchanting from the surpassing beauty of the scenery, & the state of the atmosphere which was peculiarly favorable to enhance the magic of the aerial perspective. Met Lyell, Wheatstone, Lyon Mayfair, Scott Russell, Paxton, Gould, Smee, Marshall Hall, and many others. After the placing of the column, the eternal “God save the Queen”, and a fair oration from M Laing the Chairman of the Crystal Palace Company; the invited parties (between 500 & 600) assembled in a noble marquee & sat down to the best cold collation I ever beheld. The wines, fruits,