

Dresden, December 24th 1859

My dear Mamma

Your letter arrived last night, just after Adolf and I had been paying a visit at the Boytons. Don't write after the arrival of this, as I suppose you will get it on Tuesday, and Friday is the last day that I can get letters here; however if you write by early post on Tuesday I would probably get it on Friday. We have had regular winter scenes here since I last wrote, sledging &c, &c, and all the concomitants of winter in the north. However I like it very well, particularly on account of the skating, which I have learned to like very much. I take my last two lessons this morning, viz French and Mathematics. Ayer grumbles greatly at the weather, that

Now when his holidays have commenced
that the frost is gone, but last
night it froze a little so that
perhaps we may have some skating
to day. The ice is more than a foot
thick so that it takes a long time
for it to thaw here, and the slightest
frost preserves it. I shall begin
packing my books as soon as possible
for I do not know how long they
may be on the road, but I suppose
it can hardly be more than a fortnight.
The cost will probably be not much
short of a pound, but even if it
does cost a pound it will still
be cheaper than carrying them with
me. I have got the photograph,
but it is not to be ready till this
evening, nor have I seen it yet.

The first costs 10/6 and the after copies
4/6 each. I am not quite settled
yet as to the time I shall occupy
in going from Dover to Pondwell
but in any case I hope to have the
pleasure of meeting Harris & the rest
at Brighton for a few hours at any
rate. I must now finish this as
it is near post time.

Francis E. Prendergast.