

1 them the famous Kohinoor diamond, crowns & sceptres, and gewgaws worth millions of
2 dollars.

3 24th. Explored the British Museum. The building is an imposing structure finished 20 years
4 since. Grecian architecture with imposing colonades. Saw here the Elgin Marbles, being parts
5 of ancient Greek buildings brought from Athens by Lord Elgin. I found them of great interest.
6 The zoological department was full & complete. The reading room or Library is an immense
7 rotunda 140 feet diameter and 106 feet high, covered with a dome. Around this room
8 beautifully arranged are 850000 volumes of printed books. Separate reading desks for 300
9 persons. There are two large tables for ladies exclusively. In the afternoon went to the Royal
10 Botanic Gardens in Regents Park. Here we used the card of introduction kindly furnished us by
11 Mr. Wm P. Wright and found ourselves in the midst of the Bobs and Nabobs of this great city.
12 The garden is enclosed by a high fence. Contains perhaps 20 acres beautifully arranged with
13 broad walks and shady retreats, serpentine lakes and rustic bridges. The floral show under an
14 immense canvas tent far exceeded any exhibition of flowers I ever saw. The roses were
15 particularly fine. In fact I never knew what a first class rose meant until I saw those. Exhibition
16 of fruit very good, strawberries as large as hens eggs, etc. We had two full bands of music, and
17 as soon as one set blowed out, the other pitched in and made quite a time of it. Quite a smart
18 shower of rain gave variety to the programme, and it was interesting soon after to see the
19 costly silk trains trailing along on the moistened walks. Met Mr. Wright and Mr. Bruce as we
20 were passing out of the garden. It is fashionable here to go to such places about the time
21 everybody should be going home.

22 25th. Went to see Madame Tousauds [Tussaud's] wax figures. Very interesting, but feeling very
23 ill, Mrs. Van and I returned to our hotel leaving the girls to enjoy the show alone. Found myself
24 in for another of those fearful attacks of pain in my left side, but it was not so severe as
25 formerly.

26 26th. Visited Crystal Palace at Sydenham, about 7 or 8 miles S.E. of the city. There is nothing
27 about the building worthy of note except its vastness. The grounds surrounding the Palace are
28 "perfectly lovely," fountains and flower beds, shrubs & evergreens in endless profusion.
29 Besides which the site being elevated, we had a magnificent landscape view in every direction –
30 said to be the best in England. In the Palace we found besides the ordinary exhibition of works
31 of art, machinery, etc., a large section fitted up in imitations of the styles of building in different
32 ages, and in various parts of the world. A perfect imitation of a first class home in Pompei, full
33 size, the Alhambra in Moorish style, model of a Temple cut in the side of a rock at Nubia,
34 specimens of Greek art, models of Roman, Assyrian, Byzantine, German & English Medieval,
35 Renaissance, and Elizabethan. These models are large rooms and courts, and one can imagine
36 himself transferred from place to place and from age to age in a tromkling. This was of greatest
37 interest to me. The galleries are adorned with pictures & sculpture "ad infinitum." A concert of
38 vocal & instrumental music in the rotunda, on a large scale, took place in the afternoon which
39 was largely attended, and the girls were particularly happy.