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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

London Jan 1st 1861

Dear Mother

I arrived here about 2 days before Christmas, and have been ever since examining the great City, last night i went to the Drury Lane Theatre and saw one of the finest plays i have ever seen, they have better performers here than in the States but the Theatres are not near so fine indeed there are no fine buildings in London, on Christmas day i went through the Christal Palace, i have also been through the British Museum, and St Pauls Cathedral, St Pauls is a fine Church but it is nothing to St Peters in the City of Rome, the whole church would stand inside of St Peters i am going to leave here on saturday for Birmingham and then for Manchester, i think i shall sail from Cork but i dont know exactly when before i left Munich i got a card from the american Consul and went to the great Brass foundry to see the doors they are casting for the Capitol at Washington, but i had no use for the card for when i arrived at the place i told the first man i saw that i was an american and could not speak German so he went into the Shop and brought out a man who could speak English, he came up to Me with a lot of keys and said he had come to take Me through the establishment, He showed Me the doors which have had five years of labor expended on them and they will tak 6 Months more before they are finished, There has just been an arival from America and the papers say there is a hard time in the united states, i shall be in Washington on the 4th of March i hope, to see the inaugeration.

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The English papers speak as if the united states were going to be dissolved, if it is done without fighting the American People must be a great set of Cowards,, let Mr Walton know that i am still alive and well as i hope He and all of You are

Yours respectfully

Edward A Fulton

P S

it is much more pleasant here than on the Continent for we are not bothered with passports and they have free press and free speech, but they are a hundred years behind the Americans in many things in every country i have seen they dont know any more about Railroads and Steamboats than Children,, the cars in England are more wretched than any i have seen anywhere else though they are all poor enough in Europe,, London is celebrated as the largest city in the World but it is wanting in fine buildings and is one of the unhandsoimest places i have ever seen,, it is so Murkey and smokey here that one cannot see $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from any place and there is not a building in the city as handsome as the public buildings of Washington,, the new Parliament house which i have visited is the greatest botch of any great building i have ever seen, it looks like a barn compared to the Capitol of the United States,,

Yours affectionately

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