

Oxford  
Jan 28. 86

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Dear Howard

The Exam. is over

I am glad to say: it was  
only a short one from Monday  
till Wed. not taking all the  
subjects I had no paper on  
Tuesday in fact I only took  
3. The papers only had  
7 questions in + an essay: out  
of the former I did  $2\frac{1}{2}$  - in  
one paper only 1. Whether the

examiners will like this kind  
of work remains to be seen.

I fancy that I was the best  
man in though my paper  
work was far from what I  
should like it to have been.

Possibly the result may be out  
this Friday aft. anyway I'll  
send you word as soon as I  
can + will see waste to  
or you if the result be a  
good one (i.e. favourable).

I am at work again here now

though I should have reached  
a day or two after the thing  
was over. An exam done  
with always makes me feel more  
a less disinclined for renewed  
operations.

Subjunctive I infer from this further  
thing in a month which is  
somewhat doubtful then - that  
over - I shall actually have had  
my very last exam. The thought  
is almost overpowering + indicates a  
state of feeling new to this  
generation + utterly unknown to  
our predecessors.

To change the ~~subject~~ subject -  
things in London are rather  
interesting: I for one regret the  
turning out of Salisbury: it only  
means worse muddle, neither  
Hartington nor the Rads. (even with  
Gladstone) can possibly form a stable  
Government + the latter is almost  
sure to come to smash trusting to  
dependent as he would be on the  
Irish vote.

I fancy after all  
that Salisbury is the man to tide  
us over the Greece affair + then  
the Conservatives must necessarily  
have brought in measures more or  
less liberal which the latter could

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have modified considerably +  
helped to pass. I fear that  
before long we shall begin to  
want a little less pure party  
spirit in politics. It really  
seems as if the whig + radical split  
were to come before Gladstone goes  
+ as if he were to lead the radicals:  
The liberal secession in that case  
will be a strong one - Huxington  
Foster - Forster - James + Trevelyan  
at all events.

Why on earth does not Gladstone  
make Parnell Irish secretary  
anyway it would be worth the  
trouble + be a bold stroke: first

all we should have (suppose he accepted the place) a division in the Irish camp & this is exactly what is wanted.

Funston & Polymers have it that the Queen is to send for Hastington. I trust he will take office & work with the Conservatives behind him the united Conservative & Liberal (moderate) vote is larger than any other single vote. By which you will see that I am more than a moderate Liberal.

V. W. S.

I like your Father keeps well: please remember me to him if he be at Bowdon. You will see of course that Dixie has missed <sup>his</sup> things here. He will probably have another shot elsewhere.