

Berlin

9.30 a.m.

Wednesday April 27
1859.

My dear Papa

I am writing this in the coffee room
after a very good breakfast of
coffee and rolls. I walked about
the town yesterday evening till
5.45, when I went to the
theatre, but was told every
place had been full for a
quarter of an hour, so, went
off again. It was the 90th
representation of the opera
"the Huguenots." I then walked
outside the town in some
public gardens, listening to
organs played by old pensioners;

these gardens are the nicest
I think I ever saw, and though
not 10 minutes walk from the
centre of this side of the city,
yet there are woodquests there!

I then came home about 7.30
and got some tea and went
to bed at about 10. This
morning I was awakened at
about 6 by military music,
and on looking out saw two
regiments marching down the
street, presently more came
making the house shake, these
were the artillery. "Boots" came
in shortly, and on my asking
him, he said they were going

out to exercise. I am greatly
surprised at the French I hear,
every well dressed person seems
to speak it, and at this
moment there is a gentleman
here speaking to the waiter
in French. The people are
the liveliest and best looking
of any I have yet seen, some-
what English in appearance,
and with a vivacity that is
quite astounding after the
sluggishness of the Dresdeners.
The shops are very fine, and
the streets wide and well
paved all running at right

angles which looks very well
but is rather monotonous.

The number of public buildings
is very remarkable and many
are very handsome. On the
whole it gives me the idea
of a very large, (population is
350,000) handsome and ~~flourishing~~
flourishing city, with plenty
of amusement and business
going on. I attempted to
walk down the renowned
Frederick Strasse yesterday
evening, but after having
walked on for 10 minutes
and not seeming to be any
nearer

nearer the ²end than on first
entering it, I gave it up
as a ~~lost~~ hopeless case;
this too was only one half
of the street that I was in,

2 p.m. I have just come
back, having been walking about
since 10.30 and am more than
ever impressed with the magnificence
and splendour of Berlin.

I determined to walk the whole
length of Frederick St. and
see how long it took to walk
it, I went my usual pace
and was exactly three quarters
of an hour in going from one

end to the other! There are handsome shops with large plate glass windows nearly the whole way, and the whole street is well built. I had taken it for granted that this street was an exception, but I have been in dozens as fine, or finer, only not quite so long. Handsome equipages may be seen driving about everywhere, and the streams of well dressed people look very cheerful.

I went to the museum but found it shut; the portico is the largest, and one of the

finest I ever saw; the pillars are Ionic and there is a magnificent range of fresco paintings. The royal Castle too is very fine, though somewhat plain. I never heard anyone talk much about the beauty of Berlin, but I am now beginning to think it is something very fine indeed. The Germans say that wherever a Berliner goes he is always talking about his Beau-lieu (so pronounced by themselves) and I don't wonder at it now. Its great defect is the lowness

of the houses which is made
more apparent by the width
of the streets. I shall
try and see Potsdam tomorrow;
it is 45 minutes by rail, going
at 10 am and coming back at
5 p.m. and next morning
be off for Dresden at
6.15 a.m., getting there at 12.5
- just in time for dinner.

I can easily fancy that unless
one had friends in Berlin it
would be a very tiresome place
- and every one says it is so -
but I cannot imagine a city
better

better worth ³ seeing.

The weather is ~~then~~ splendid,
no rain, no sun, not heat and
no cold - just what it ought
to be in fact; and if it
will only keep fine tomorrow,
it may do what it likes on
Friday. I shall be going

down to the table d'hôte now
in a few minutes and shall
probably finish this tomorrow.
28th 9.45 a.m.

I am writing this in a 2nd class
carriage of the Berlin and
Potsdam Railway, while
waiting for it go off, 10 it

goes I think; I was getting into what I took to be a bad second class - that is better than any of our 2^{nds}, but very bad for a continental 2nd, when a porter said this ^{is} a 3^d class and showed me into a 2nd class. There is absolutely no difference whatever between the first and second classes here except in price.

As I had some time to spare this morning I took a walk in the suburbs and am still more than ever

astonished at Berlin.

Rotterdam 12 noon.

I came down by the train in 35 minutes and then wandered about the town, till now. It is very fine, very large and somewhat like Salisbury but larger, better and handsomer.

I was assaulted by a com-missionaire who wished to make a capture of me and take me over the palace, out to Sans-souci &c, but I declined, and wandered about alone, and then walked out

of the town, at about $\frac{1}{2}$ ~~an~~ a
mile from which I found
a most lovely church yard -
without exception the love-
-liest I ever saw; there were
several women (hired) ^{weeding}
and opposite many of the graves
I see chairs, evidently for
contemplation and thought:
almost all the graves are
decorated with wreaths of
flowers - not immortelles
but real - and most of the
tombstones are of solid
iron with gilt letters,
evidently

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evidently after renewed;
at last I came to one ~~the~~
which so attracted my
attention that I determined
to give you an account of
it; a pedestal of grey
sandstone, about 3 feet
high on which stands ^a ~~the~~
cast iron statuette ~~the~~
~~the~~ most beautifully finished
of an angel holding a tablet,
on which are in gilt letters
the following inscription
(translated) Emma Schade
born Schade
born 20th Decemb. 1830
died 20 February
1858

on the top of the tablet
is a gilt butterfly resting
on two crossed leaves,
over it is hanging a pretty
wreath of fresh flowers.

I never saw anything that
could compare to it, and
I think it would have been
worth the journey from Dresden
merely to see this church
yard and this statue.

I wish I had time to
sketch it, but as I am
standing and must soon
be moving off, I shall not

attempt it.

Berlin 4. p.m.

I am here again - very glad to have
seen Rotterdam - but I expect that
when I get back to Dresden
everybody will ~~tell me~~ ask me
have you seen Sanssouci? Frederick's
the great's tomb? the Museum
at Berlin? and so forth, and
when I reply "no" they will say
"Oh you have seen nothing". How-
ever I intend to seek places
and travel in the way I find
pleasantest and not "à la
Guide Book".

I must now tell you of my
attempt to get to the theatre

last night. I went and was
there in a crowd ~~till~~ for $\frac{3}{4}$ of
an hour before the doors were
opened, and then got well
crushed before I could get to
the office, where we were all
severally informed, that they
were very sorry there was no
more room! However

I was very glad to have been
in a Berlin crowd and was
greatly pleased at its behaviour
- plenty of joking and laughing, but
all polite and goodhumoured,
and the final disappointment
did not make them angry, but
on the

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on the contrary brought forth
more merriment. It certainly
would have brought ^{forth} anything
but amusement in England
or Ireland.

I have come to the conclusion
that the Berliners - men, women
and children are mostly good-
-looking, many really handsome
and not puny wretches like
the Germans I am accustomed
to see in Saxony. The troops
are tall, fine, and well equipped
but from the look of the
men I should prefer the
Saxons, who though mostly

small and not too well dressed, have yet a something about them which makes me think that they would fight well. The officers too here are mostly tall handsome gentlemanly looking fellows which is more than can be said for the Saxons.

Don't let uncle Frank be criticising this writing for some was written in a railway carriage, some while standing and the whole with a very short pencil and on paper most

peculiarly unadapted for pencil writing.

While at breakfast this morning the waiter brought me my passport, all wise and correct so I have no more trouble about it. I am very glad indeed to have seen Berlin and Potsdam which have both given me a very favourable impression of Prussia and its institutions. I enclose my Potsdam ticket

which (as is often the case here)
was not taken from me
and has only a bit torn
off each end. It is ~~just~~ just
the same size as the bank
notes that one gets here
and in Saxony of 3/ and
15/ (1 & 5 Thaler notes)
which as you may imagine
are very convenient and portable
they have also ten Thaler
notes, and up to any amount.

The paper currency is only
passable in the country.
it belongs to, but the
silver

6.
silver is current throughout
all of Germany, though each
country has its peculiar coins
8 p.m.

I have been out since 5 o'clock
wandering about the city and
finding more and more to at-
tract my attention; I have seen
one archway in the Castle which
is really splendid, seen two
noble twin churches, the new
Theatre, which is very large
and (seen from the front) very
handsome, and discovered more
splendid streets and places,

but and ^{but} very little of all that
I have seen could be called
poor. It is a very dressy
place and everybody is
dressed, gloved, ~~hatted~~ and
booted in a most alarming
way. Altogether I have
seen a great deal to day, -
Berlin in the morning Potsdam
in the middle of the day and
Berlin again in the evening.

There is a very perceptible
"Goaheaditiveness" about the
place which is very pleasant
to see. I should not be sur-

prised if at some day it
became a place of the greatest
importance - it is so at present
but I mean in ^{the} greatest meaning
of the word "importance".

I wish I had time to write
more about it, but I must
get my tea and go to bed
as I shall have to be up
at all hours tomorrow morning

Friday. 6.15. a.m.
in the train for Dresden

I am now on my way back
and shall post this in
Dresden, so if you get it
with the Dresden post mark

you may conclude I am safe
back. My expenses, rail,
Hotel and and all included
from Tuesday morning
till now - and there will
be more on this journey
were ~~£ 2. 12. 10~~ £ 2. 12. 10
is not that very cheap?
The weather is still fine.

Francis E. Prendergast.