

Tuesday. Jan 18. 1852

Dresden.

9.15. a.m.

My dear papa

On meeting uncle J. on Saturday,
I found that he had accepted
an invitation for me to go to a
ball, given by Mrs Bayton and
Capt. Montgomery (both Irish).

I was of course very glad to go,
and went, yesterday evening, as
I had been recommended, at
7 o'clock. We began dancing before
8 and kept it up till a
quarter past two! Nearly 7 hours.
There were about 40 people

there, all English or American
with one or two exceptions.
Among the people ^{that} I may enumerate
is Capt. Montgomery, a very nice
sort of person, he is a nephew
of Gordon's father in law, and
lives near Stranorlar! Then
there was Mrs & Miss Allen,
the latter a very pleasant young
lady, the exact image of Miss
McCarthy; in manners, age,
and appearance just like her,
and a first rate dancer: Uncle
J. desired me ^{most particularly} to make her ac-
quaintance and dance with
her, which of course I did,

There were 5 or 6 American la-
-dies ^{there,} some of them very pretty
and agreeable, but nothing dif-
-ferent from the English ladies
in appearance. There was a
Mr Thompson & family from
Belfast, and in fact the Irish
and Americans formed the
majority. I hear that there
are 50 or 60 families of the
latter residing here, and you
meet through Yankee faces
and voices everywhere. By the
way, I have got a new mes-
-senger ~~mate~~, a young American

from Charleston (or thereaway)
his name I have not made out,
he has been here for 3 months
in a German family, and has
now come here, so that we
have now 4 English, 2 Rus-
sians, a Swiss & an American
at dinner we generally sit
down 12 or 14, and at supper
there are often more. I have
been making uncle J. look out
with me for a riding school
and have found one which
he thinks very good, and I shall
begin immediately. The terms are
14 Thalers for 24 lessons - some-
-what more than $1/6$ a lesson!
Rather different from Clarendon's.

uncle J. is also very anxious
that I should get a math-
-ematical master as soon
as possible. Hitherto I have
done nothing but German and
gymnastics, it being the opin-
-ion of both uncle J. and
the Professor that I should
do nothing but German
for the first 6 weeks or
so. Every one here says that
it is very easy to learn a
little German, but that it
takes a long time to make
much progress in it. At this
moment I am sitting with my

window open and the thermometer is 5 degrees above freezing point - quite warm in fact, and very likely to night it will be 10 degrees ~~but~~ below it.

Wednesday 19.

This morning the thermometer is higher than it has been since my arrival, viz 9 deg. above freezing point, so that it is absolutely warm. No more skating for the present of course.

Yesterday morning I had a very pleasant visit from the Revd Mr Dale who came with many apologies for the liberty he had taken of inviting me

to his house without having seen me previously, but he had presumed to do so on account of his acquaintance with my cousin Vc. &c. Vc. Arthur P. is very useful to me, as he is known and liked everywhere, and I am generally supposed to be his brother or some very close relation. I have been talking to uncle J. about getting into some German family, for although I am very comfortable here and enjoying myself very much, still I am not getting on much with the

German, for this reason that
the only time that I hear
it spoken or have to ~~hear~~
speak it, is at meals, and
even then not much, for not
one of the fellows will speak
anything but English unless
compelled to do so, while
if I was in a German fam-
ily and living with them
and ~~being~~ constantly hearing
and ~~being~~ compelled to
speak German I should cer-
tainly make much more prog-
-ress than I do here which is
certainly not much, besides
this I should have more time
for working than I have here.

I dare ~~not~~ say it would not
be so pleasant for me, par-
-ticularly at first, for I could
not be much more comfortable
than I am here. Uncle J. says
that I am quite right, and
that ~~this~~ is his opinion
on the subject also. He
has been making inquiries, but
though there are plenty of houses
where I could go, yet he had
not heard of anything exactly
suitable. At the gymnastic
place I met a young English-
-man of the name of Simpson
who has been staying for seve-
-ral months at a house where

there were no other Englishmen
or anybody except the family
and he said that he had
been very comfortable and that
they had taken great pains
to teach him German. The
house is in a most particularly
desireable quarter close to
uncle J's, and not in a street.
He is going away in a week,
and invited me to call on
him any day I liked. Uncle
J. recommended me strongly
to go at once and make
out all I could about it,
and I shall go to day before
dinner. I believe he is going

to write to you to day on this
subject. He agrees with me
in thinking, that the great
point is to get of the way
of Englishmen, for where
ever there are two or three,
English is sure to ~~be~~ spoken
more than German. I hope
you will answer this as soon
as possible, and let me and
uncle J. know what you
think about it. Tell mam-
-ma that I have had so much
to write to you that I can
not write to her at present,
and that she may consider
the first part of this letter

as intended for her. I was
at tea at uncle Jo's last
night, there were two red-bellied
Gosnons there, who they were
I do not know, but they
were decidedly strong minded
ladies and would certainly
have frightened uncle Joe.
Yesterday it was so warm
that I went out dressed as
I would in Dublin, and
then wished I had put some-
thing lighter on, to day it
will be still warmer, but one
never knows when the frost
will set in again.

Francis E. Prendergast