

Burdell No 2

From January 25th - 1859
to July 16th - 1859

Dresden.

9.15. a.m.

Jan. 25 1859.

My dear mamma,

This is a new kind of paper, which
uncle Jeffry recommends, and which I
think is very good, and, like everything
here cheap. You would be surprised at
the quantity I use in writing letters.

My expenses since I came here, coat and
boots excepted, have been just 8 shil-
-lings, 5/6 being for postage stamps.

It is looking very dark this morning
and I think we shall have snow,
yet it is quite warm. I begin my
riding to day, and have also a
gymnastic lesson. I do not know if
I ever told you about the dog carts
here, they seem to use dogs just in

the same way as we do donkeys, general-
-ly there is only one dog, but some-
-times two or three. When the cart
stops a piece of carpet is given to
the dog to lie down on, and often
another piece thrown over him. Some
of the dogs are very merry looking,
while others again look as if they
would like to fly at you. Every
dog here, without exception, is required
by law to be muzzled, they have
generally wire muzzles. I have not
seen one donkey, and only one cat
since I came here. Last night we
had an army surgeon here, who
played on the piano till 11.30 p.m.
I and one or two others sat up lis-
-tening, but most went to bed long
before he finished. I am looking

out for the frost to come on again,
for there has been no skating for the
last week. I do not think you ~~will~~^{can}
would like the way the dinners are
arranged here, the roasts making their
appearance near the end of the din-
~~ner~~-ner. I looked at Mrs Hughes
washing book yesterday, and found
that the weekly expence is about
1/10 or 2/. and at the end of ~~the~~
every month you pay 6^d for the men-
-ding of stockings, shirt buttons &c
Mrs Hughes said I could pay by the
week, month or quarter, just as I liked.
I said I would pay by the quarter.
I like the feeding here very much, the
only objection being that the dinners
are perhaps, a little too good, how-
-ever that is a fault on the right
side. The coffee is first rate, but

the tea is not so good. Tell papa
that I could not liken any of my
companions to anybody I know, he
must imagine them. To day it has
been absolutely hot and if the sun
had shone (which it did not)
it would have been like sum-
-mer. I am writing to M. felt.
and will post this and it to mor-
-row morning. I have not had any
more invitations to balls as yet,
but I am in no hurry. It seems
as if I never could get through
my correspondence. I am always
writing and always have more
to write Jack, Sharpe, & Mr
Ensell must be written to before
long

Francis E Pendergast

Dresden

9.30 a.m.

Jan 26. 1859.

My dear papa,

I took my first lesson in riding yesterday. The reins are held in a different manner from Clarendons method. The school is just about the same size. I took my lesson at 3, and was not alone, which would have been desirable for the first lesson. The master speaks only French and German, so I find it rather hard to understand him.

Tomorrow I go at 8. a.m. and on mentioning this to Mrs Hughes she said I must eat "ein bischen" (a morsel) before I went and finish my breakfast when I come home.

I am sure she is quite right in this.

what do you think? I shall give
you now an account of my companions
beginning with Ettinger, he is about
19, born at Odessa, of a Bavarian
father and Neapolitan mother, he
says he considers himself to be a
complete Russian. German and Italian
he of course speaks perfectly, his
English is perfect and even idiomat-
-ical, and his French is reported
to be equally good, Russian of
course he is familiar with. He
has been here for some years studying
engineering at the Polytechnic. He
is going away at Easter. He seems
to be a hard-working fellow, and
I like him best of any of the fellows
here.

Stuffle is a complete Russian, also from Odessa, and studying at the Polytechnic, he ^{is} about 18, and is, without exception, the fattest and burliest fellow of his age I ever saw.

He is always laughing and joking and practices all day long on the violincello. The Swiss, ^{van} Berchem, comes from Bern, and belongs to some Swiss regiment, he has come here to learn German. His Father was a Flemish Baron, which accounts for the "van". He is a really first rate performer on the ~~violin~~ piano, and generally plays for us in the evening. Then there is a little (very little indeed) Frenchman ~~is~~ from Paris, his father was English and he is an English subject, but is far more French than

English. He is a melancholy little
fellow, and ^{er} generally gets the reputation
of being half cracked - which in-
-deed I think he is. He has been
here for 5 months and can scarce-
-ly speak a word of ~~the~~ German !!
Not so much as I can in fact.

Then there is Smith, a half Scotch-
-man, who has lived a great deal
in the Highlands. He is going into
the Rifles, and expects his commission
immediately. He is studying mathe-
-matics, French, German and the
Broadwood. Simpson the last
~~com~~ arrival from England I do
not like at all. He is the son
of a London banker. Lastly there
is a little American called Spark-
-man, who

- man, who has only been here a week. I get a great deal of information out of him about America and American customs, he is the only fellow here who will carry on anything like a conversation. I do not like any of them well enough to associate with them, and beyond talking to them at meals, or going down to the ice with them, I have nothing to say to them.

Smith is the only one with much breeding, except per-

haps Ettinger. I must now
be off to my drawing master
and I will finish this and
mammals in the evening.

6.30 I got your letter this evening
and took the enclosed to uncle
J. immediately. I have not seen
him either to day or yesterday.
I do not consider that my time
has been much wasted since I
came, although I have done no
Greek or Latin. To day I have
already worked 5 hours and
wrote letters for one hour.

However I should certainly
have more time for working, and
more opportunities for learning
German in a German family.

Francis E. Pundergast.