

Dresden.

9.15 a.m.

Jan. 28. 1859.

My dear papa,

I was at tea at uncle J's last night and Dr Seiler was there he said he would make inquiries about some German house that I might go into. Unless I could get into a family where they are entirely German and no English whatsoever, I do not think I should be in a better way of learning German than here, and unless some house can be found with which can afford advantages to balance those of this house, I think it would be no use moving. Uncle J. seems to think that no house could be found except where there were some Englishmen, as in private families they have generally no spare

room, and this house is too comfortable
to be left except for some place
which would afford great advantages,
however I cannot believe but that
some German family could be found
where there are no other lodgers.

The weather here has been most extra-
ordinary, the thermometer averaging for
the last 8 or 10 days plus 5, and there
has not been any frost even at night.

In January this is said to be very
unusual. My coat which I got
here is of the most astounding warmth
and consequently has been useless for
the last 2 or 3 days, although in the
cold it seemed as if one never could
have enough on. The stuff it is made
of is thicker than any I ever saw
before, and its lining which is also

cloth, is thicker than the stuff of
the Inverness Cape! To day there
is a slight drizzling Rain, but it
always gets fine in the afternoon. I
spent an hour in the Picture Gallery
yesterday and came away dead tired
I ought to have done something at the
French before I came away, for al-
most everybody of any education here
can speak it, and although I can
understand a good deal of it, yet
I can not speak it at all. The
German I can generally speak but
find considerable difficulty in un-
derstanding it thoroughly. I have
often tried to combine the two
but could never manage it. I shall
finish this some other time. At this
moment the window is wide open and
probably every other one in the house also.

Jan. 29. 7.45. p.m.
To day we have had the first real
rain that has fallen since I arrived,
but it only lasted a few hours. I rode
this morning from 8 till 9. there were
6 other fellows (all German) there. It
is quite impossible for me to learn
anything there at present, as I can-
not understand the fellow who teaches,
but I go there 3 times a week, and
try and do what the others do. Let
uncle Joe and uncle Willie know
this, and tell them that they must
be satisfied, for I can do no more.
On the other 3 days I have got a
gymnastic lesson at the same hour.
I was with my drawing master for
an hour and a half this morning.
He has given me some eyes, noses,

and faces to copy. According to
his directions I have got "a Blockbook"
which is just like those pads of
blotting paper which some people have
and when one sheet is full you take
it off with a knife. I had also
a German lesson to day for an
hour, and have now been working for
the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and I also read
Hume for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour in the mor-
ning, so you see I am not idle.

I think a dancing master would be al-
-most a loss of time as one ~~is~~ is
laughed at, if they do more than
walk through a quadrille. I had
a grand vaulting match with Smith
at the Gymnasium the other day. We
went over the "horse" raised to its
highest, that being about the height

of my shoulder and of his chin
or indeed perhaps of his eyes. I met
uncle J. and aunt M. in the G.
G. today and came in, in the car-
riage. Uncle Jeffry makes an im-
-mense number of puns and jokes
and then vainly endeavours to keep
from smiling at them. To-morrow
I dine with them, it being Sunday.
This is the way my time is occupied at
present. Monday. Gymnastics from 8 till
9. German 10-11. Drawing 11.30-12.30
Wednesday & Friday the same.
Tuesday Riding from 8-9 German 10-11
Thursday the same. Saturday the same
with the addition of drawing from 11.30
till 12.30. This keeps me nearly as
busy as I well can be, as the German takes
a great deal of time.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. Do you think a French master would be
advisable? It is far more important than
German, and this is a good opportunity for learning it.

Dresden.

7.30. p. m.

Jan. 28. 1859.

My dear mamma

I took a walk of about 6 or 7 miles (alone) ^{to day}. I went out into the country beyond the Grosser Garten, but there it is very flat and uninteresting, at the other side of the river it is much more interesting.

I have now got my gymnastics and riding on alternate mornings before breakfast fairly established, and I eat my breakfast in two divisions one before I go, (the hours are from 8 to nine) and finish it when I come home. The weather here is something extraordinary for Dresden, I think it is warmer than we ever have in December or January.

I find that unless I think when
I am dating my letters I always put
58 for 59. I did this in papas
letter but have since corrected it.
There is a very nice kind of lamp
here, which I and all the other fellows
are given, it is a sort of argand
lamp, with a thin porcelain shade
(or bell) at the top. As in the
Moderateur you can regulate the amount
of light required. When I go into
supper I leave just the least pos-
-sible flame and when I come back,
I have nothing to do but to turn
the screw and I have the full amount
of light. At supper we always
have two large Moderateurs.
Glass globes are not used here, but
instead of them a paper tumbler

is put on, this of course throws the
light down, but you cannot read un-
-less the book is on the table or
very low down. There has been very
little excitement here about the Prin-
-cess Frederick Williams son, but
they say that there ha^{ve} been great
rejoicings in Berlin. I find that
from writing so much German, that
when writing English I am always
inclined to make the German charac-
-ters, which will account for my
numerous blots. Tell papa that I
have thought of a great likeness
Simpsons face is just identical
with that of "Bells" (The original
Bones") with the exception of course,
of its not being black. I cannot
think of any likenesses for the others

Hogarth and Stipple are perfectly
incomparable to any other people in
the circle of my acquaintances.

The Elbe here is a magnificent river
not quite, but nearly as large as the
Thames at London, however it is not
deep, but considering Dresden is 500
miles from the sea it is a magnificent
river. I hear that in summer 8 or 10
steamers pass up and down every day.

The ice has totally disappeared
but I dare say we shall have the
frost soon again. I am anxious
for it on account of the skating.

The 2^d best place for skating is
not 5 minutes walk from this
house. The best (largest) is in the
Grosser Garten.

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden.

8. p.m.

Jan. 31. 1859.

My dear papa,

I think a house just the very thing wanted has been found for me by Dr Seiler and uncle J. The house is in the Räcknitz~~er~~ Strasse on the ground floor i.e. the lowest floor but one. The people consist of a Baron Von Seckowdorf (so pronounced) his wife a son of about 18 who is at the Polytechnic and a daughter who is a little younger. I have not seen them, ~~them~~ but uncle J. went there to day to make inquiries, and said they seemed very nice people, there are no other Englishmen or lodgers of any kind, and they wish only to engage by the month, which of course is just what we want. Uncle J. said that he had seen the room I would have

and says it is better than this room
which is certainly a very good one.

The street in which the house is, is
one of the new streets and has no
houses opposite, it is about 3 minutes
walk from Carola str. - that is
somewhat nearer than this street
is, and is in fact in best part of
the town. On looking over my list
of letters received and despatched
in the last fortnight I find that
I have received 7, and despatched 8!
considering the length of each I
think that is pretty well for me.

To day I have scarcely had a quiet
moment, I went to my gymnastics at
8 had a German lesson at 10 a
Drawing lesson at 11.30 dined at 1
read Hume from 2 till 2.45 went
out at 3 with uncle J. came back

at 4.30 and worked up till the
time I began this, and in a few min-
utes I shall be eating my supper.

To-morrow morning I go again to
ride at 8, so you see I am
kept going pretty briskly.

Feb. 1st I went to day with uncle J.
to Baron Seckendorf and settled that I
would go there to-morrow after dinner.
My direction for the future is

~~7 Räcknitzstrasse~~
7 Räcknitzstrasse
bei (meaning care of) Baron
Seckendorf.

I find ^{it} almost impossible to write
any German name in English charac-
ters which was the cause of the
first blot. I have just come in from
a long walk; after leaving uncle J.

I walked out somewhere into the

country, and by chance hit a very
pretty road running along by the Elb.
I went as far as some little village
built mostly of wood with a queer
old wooden church. I was about
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and therefore conclude
it was about 4 miles distant from
Dresden. I got into the "guten Tag"
("fine day") region which proves it
to be quite countrified. Please
forward the enclosed to Jack,
and if you write, let him know of
~~your~~ my change of residence. Let
them know of it also at Postrevon
and Magherafelt. I shall probably
not write again for a few days
until I get settled. The weather still
continues fine.

Francis E. Prndergast,