

Dresden. 4 Räcknitzer Strasse

10 a.m.

Feb. 3. 1859.

My dear paper

I have now been here since 3 o'clock yesterday, and although I do not much like to speak on first impressions, yet I must ^{say} that I think I have got into the very best place that can possibly be imagined. My room is large and light. The Baron appears to be a thorough gentleman, and I never look at his wife without thinking of aunt Matilda. The son is absent at the Polytechnic, except at meals, and although he ^{is} a very nice fellow, I think ~~that~~ this rather an advantage. The daughter is most decidedly not good looking, but she is very agreeable. They have done all they can to make me at home, and if I do not learn German in two months I think I will be very

stupid. The baron speaks a little English as well as the son and daughter but it is very little. The quiet of the place is very agreeable after the turmoil of people walking up and down the passage, which was a decided objection at Hughes. I got a letter from aunt Eliza last night, but there was no news in it. I rode this morning for an hour and was run away with in a general shindy which happened from one of the horses spicing, a little groom was thrown, but there was no damage done to anybody. I succeeded in getting my horse to canter for the first time, the riding house is very pleasant in the morning as the sun is on it, and there is no dust floating about, which is always the case later in the day.

My expenses in moving ~~from~~^{to} this house from
Hughes were 3/. Smith had got his com-
-mission the day before I left and was to
leave next week. It causes only one room
to become vacant as the American was
one too many and had been stowed
away in some hole or other. At Easter
Ettinger leaves and his place will be
taken by the young American from Pf.
Hilbners whose place I was to have taken
so that there will be no vacancy
there for some time to come. In
talking with the American (young Spark-
-man the last arrival at Hughes) I was
surprised to find that there was
such an Irish feeling in America, he
said that they hated the English like
"pison" but that there was quite a dif-
-ferent feeling with regard to Irish-
-men and Scotchmen and that Americans
of Irish descent made no secret of
it but on the contrary were proud of it
while if of English descent they were

always anxious to conceal it. Whether
he is to be thought worthy of credit
is another matter, for ~~the~~ he used to
tell most extraordinary stories about
America & the natives, but I dare
say it is the case. To day it is
colder, and some rain has fallen, but
there has been no real rain since
I came. The flagways in Dresden are
very narrow but they make up for
it by having pavement also, for walking
on, and as Dresden is not a crow-
-ded city, it ^{is} not so uncomfortable
^{would be} as it ~~is~~ otherwise. They have fluid
gas lamps in this house, they give a
splendid light and seem to have
no smell. Uncle J. has one hanging
in the centre of the room and says
it is very satisfactory, the light is
much whiter than that given by oil.

5.30. p.m. I called on Mr Dale, our
clergyman, to day about a seat in
the church, as there are no such things
as free seats here. I am to meet him
at the church to morrow and he
will assign me some place. He is
one of the liveliest little parsons I ever
came across, and I like him very
much. I am going this evening with
the Baron to see some chemical
experiments at a German lecture
given by an Englishman. I want
to get into the ways of the family
as much as I can, and uncle J.
is greatly pleased at my wishing to
do so. You will find an account of
the feeding here in mamma's letter,
and if you are not satisfied with it
I can only say that I am. Professor
Hughes said that I would be heartily
welcome any day I liked to come in
to dinner or supper, and that I must
come in some evening soon, this I in -

10.30 a.m. Feb 4.

tend to do next week. I have ~~have~~
just been sitting with the Baroness &
her daughter after my second breakfast
for nearly an hour, this I consider time
very well spent as it is the best
German lesson I can have. It has been
snowing this morning, but it is too
wet for it to lie. I find that the
gymnastics and riding do very well
between breakfasts, but I can easily
understand that they would not do
before breakfast. My gymnastic house
is a good 20 minutes walk from
here, so that I get the benefit of a 2
mile walk as well as the gymnastics.

The riding house is quite close, and
my drawing master about 15 minutes
from this. Carola Strasse is quite close.
I shall have had 10 Gymnastic lessons
on Monday when I pay the fellow his
5 Thalers (15/).

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden. 7. Racknitzer Strasse

5. p.m.

Feb. 3^d 1859.

My dear mamma,

I have just received your letter, as well as papa's, which was enclosed to uncle J. I have got a really tip top room here, large and light, much superior to the one I had at Hughes', though indeed I have no reason to complain of the one I had there. I dare say you will remark that the letters I write in the evening are much ^{written} better, than those written in the morning.

The reason is this, after either riding or gymnastics, my hand always shakes and my writing is consequently not improved thereby. This street is about the best to be had in Dresden, for there are trees and a large garden (private) opposite, and is almost in the country, which is greatly

preferable to the everlasting racket
of the Marien Strasse. I suppose
you will be asking me for a des-
-cription of the Baroness, so I may as
well give it to you at once. She is
a very ladylike person without any
affectation, I never look at her with-
~~out~~ - out thinking of aunt Matilda
and yet she is not like her. She
speaks no English, and when speaking
to me she tries to speak slowly, so
that I may understand, but she fre-
-quently forgets herself and tumbles
out her German at such a rate that
I cannot follow, and then laughs at
herself for forgetting that I can-
-not understand her. The daughter
is somewhat like Mary Iwein, but
by no means so good looking. She
can speak a little English as well

as her brother but she will only speak
German in my presence. The feeding,
about which both aunt Margaret and
Dr Seiler ^{tried to frighten me} is as good as can be desired.
This morning at some unearthly hour
the servant came in to light the
stoves, and at 7.30 they brought me
in some coffee and two rolls, and
after coming from riding I had ~~an~~
another breakfast with the Baroness
and her daughter. For dinner we had
soup, veal, potatoes and carrots,
for second course things somewhat
like apple fritters and preserved pears,
after dinner coffee, supper is at about
7.30 and consists of cold meat, bread,
butter and ~~coffee~~ ^{tea}. Is not that
good enough for any one? I imagine
that all over the world well bred
people eat pretty much the same sort
of things, though aunt M. says that

all Germans live upon garbage !!!

I must think of some little present for Mr Hughes, to show them that I do not forget them. I have seen no flowers in bloom except hyacinths in some of the windows. It is a great luxury here not to have to run up and down stairs; being on the second floor at Hughes', and running in and out 5 or 6 times a day the everlasting 3 flights of stairs were rather disagreeable even to me.

My speed in writing is greatly improved, and I am glad to hear that you think it good. I use nothing but steel pens now, for quills would be too much bother. It has been quite soft since I last wrote and no signs of frost.

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden.

4 Rücknitzer Strasse. Feb. 7. 1859

3. p.m.

My dear Papa,

I am still very comfortable here, and have become one of the family, though I am only with them at meal times; we are very merry and I sometimes manage even to make a joke or pun in German. They have lived in Switzerland for many years and say that they always long to be there again.

Aunt Margaret has been laid up almost all last week with some internal spasms, on Saturday she was quite well and I walked with her in the G.G. Yesterday (Sunday) she was in bed, and from what I heard from uncle J, I fear in pain. He himself for the last 4 or 5 days has been confined to the

house, with an inflammation of the face, round, but luckily not in the eyes, this is supposed to come from the sharpness of the wind I believe.

For the last 2 days it has been a frost, so that in a day or two we shall have skating again.

Yesterday I walked (alone) to Plauen and Rotschappel. The last about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles off, the walk is exceedingly pretty, running through a narrow valley with high precipitous rocks (cliffs) on each side, a railway, a road and a river running at the bottom. On three sides of Dresden the country is very pretty but for the first mile it is about as flat and uninteresting as anything well can be. I am going now to make enquiries about a

German master, as I thought it better
to discontinue young Hughes. Uncle
J. is looking out for a classical
master as I am now suppose to
^{know} enough German to get some
benefit from him. I have had no
letters since Thursday which seems
as if there must be something astray
somewhere and I think that to day
(Monday) it is past the hour of 2^d
post. Feb. 8th 5. p.m. Yesterday
I got my first lesson from my
new German master Mr Nauwerk,
I like him much better than young
Hughes and he is most highly
recommended so I suppose that
there is some chance of my getting
on with him. To day it has been
magnificent, a bright sun, no wind
and a slight frost the whole day, last
night it froze pretty hard, but the
ice is not yet fit for skating.

I have not had a letter from you
since Thursday (this is Tuesday) which
rather surprises me nor have I heard
from any one else. Uncle J. and
aunt M. are much better to day
but she is still in bed. I have
just come in from a long walk
out on the other side of the
town and called at 2 Carola
St. on my way home. Please 
forward the enclosed to Mr
Ensell, I wrote it some days
ago, and I also have another
half finished to Tharp but
that I shall send direct. Uncle
J. expects to hear of a classical
master every day but as yet he
has heard of none.

Francis E. Brundergast.