

Dresden

5.30. p.m.

Feb 10. 1859.

My dear mamma

Your letter came yesterday evening and I was very glad to get it as I had not had a letter for nearly a week, and as I write at least 3 a week I thought this rather a hard case. I am awakened in the morning by the servant coming in at about 6 o'clock to light the stove, I then generally get up soon after 7, dress, take two cups of coffee and a roll or two, and move off at a little before 8. I get back soon after nine and then go and breakfast again with the Baroness and her daughter, I get back to my room about 10, or sometimes if I am inclined to talk, a little later. Then 3 times

a week I have to go to my
drawing master from 11.30 till
12.30 and as he is quite a mile off
it takes pretty nearly 2 hours, dinner
is generally at about 1.30 or a
little sooner and about 2.30
I get back to my room. I then
generally go out from 3 till 5
and come home and work ~~from~~
till supper time which is about 7.30
I generally eat, sit, talk and laugh
with them until 10, when I return
to my room and work for an
hour; on days that I have not
drawing I some times go and hear
the band which plays at the guard
house for half an hour or so
from 12 noon. The Barons name
is von Leckendorf (with an e not o),

and I would suggest that you should
put the "Germany" where I put the
"Angleterre" viz. in the upper left
hand corner, this of course is only
fancy, but I think it looks more
respectable. By the way in my ac-
count of the day here, I forgot to
say that my German master
comes every second day from 6
till 7. p.m. Feb 11th 5. p.m.

I have just come in from a walk to
a place called Räcknitz about 3
miles off, and succeeded at last in
getting a birds eye view of Dresden
there is only one other spot that I
^{now} know of where this can be obtained
and it is on the other side of the
river, and even there it is not by
any means a satisfactory view.

On my way home I called on uncle
J., he and aunt M. had been

walking in the G. G., so they may
be considered as nearly well.

I am looking out for the change
into the new house, which will
be on the 1st April, for I think
it will be a pleasanter situation
than this, that is, a green field
on two sides. The time goes over
very fast here and it seems as
if my lessons came round not every
second day, but every 6 hours.

Our dinner to day ~~to~~ was quite
Irish, soup, roast mutton, potatoes
pancakes and apples in two forms
stewed and ~~fresh~~ preserved.

Somehow I see a great ^{way} more
cats now than at first, perhaps
it is because I walk more about
the town.

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden.

Feb. 10. 1859.

4.45 p.m.

My dear papa

I received your letter yesterday evening and took the enclosed to uncle J. He and aunt M. had both so far recovered as to have gone out for a short drive, and on my calling there to day I found they were out, so I hope all will be right again soon. Yesterday evening I eat 2 suppers (et. B. I eat 2 breakfasts every morning), the way this happened was, that I had promised to go to Mr. Hughes that evening, his supper is not till 8.30 or 8.45 while here it is at 7.30, and while I was reading, the Baron came and said "wont you take a mouthful with us before you go, one of my nieces is here, she is only 16 and

is betrothed already." I of course went
in and found her a very nice young
lady, but looking much more like
26 than 16. The whole of the family
are people of birth and breeding
which is of course very pleasant.
I heard through uncle J. that
the Baron had been once a man
of considerable property, but having
embarked in some speculation,
was nearly ruined and has now
only enough to live upon. The young
lady his daughter, seems determined
that I shall like her, and has
little delicacies for my especial
benefit, and endeavours to im-
prove my German as much as she
can. The feeding is very much
like Irish fare, except perhaps
that the sauces are greasier, how-
ever as they are always separate

one can take, or not as they like.
I am afraid that my time for work-
-ing is not much improved, but
then every moment that I spend with
the family I am learning German.
Clarendon I should have set down
as about 50 not over 55 certainly,
it is nothing new to me to hear of
his fondness of literary matters, for
I do not think I ever went to him
without hearing something connec-
-ted with books. As to the French
master, uncle J. says he will be
on ~~the~~ look out for some one, and
he says nothing but a Frenchman
will do. I have often thought
that since I am on the Continent,
it would be a good plan to
spend a month or two in Sardinia
or the south of France before I go
home, as I might then learn Italian

(which is understood all round the Mediterranean more or less) and improve any French I had learned here, to say nothing of the different countries I should see. Spanish I have heard, read and ^{would be easy} imagine to anyone who knows Latin.

Between these one might "knock out" a lingua Franca that would pass almost anywhere.

German I have a great contempt for, as I think ~~the~~ its numerous authors ~~are~~ its only attraction, however it is largely spoken, and I heard from the Russians at Augh's that in Russia educated people never use their own language when speaking to one another, but instead, French or German, the Russian itself, being only used by the lower orders.

Feb. 11.

Feb 11. 10.30 a.m.

yesterday Evening I was in German society for the first time. About 7.30 Young Leckendorf came into my room and said, that two of ^{his} aunts were come to tea, and that I must come in and see them, I of course did so and found that one of them was a Baroness, and the other a most lady-like person, presently in came 3 Russian ladies, one of whom was the handsomest woman I have seen for some time, she is the Countess of Nativitz, and though only 23, has been two years divorced from her husband and is now living here with her sisters, There was also a Russian gentleman of 21, who is studying engineering at the Polytechnic here. One of the Russian ladies spoke English perfectly, though she said she had never been in England. It is perfectly marvellous the way

these Russians speak languages.

I found that I could not make anything of the conversation when more than one spoke at the same time, but when they spoke singly I could generally understand pretty well. I was greatly surprised to see the way the Teckendorfs came out, in ordinary they live pretty much like our selves but on this occasion they were quite fashionable, and had a really first-rate supper - minus wine or beer which hardly at all used in society ^{here}. If I knew French, I might go about here much more, for my German is by no means (as yet) sufficient for much conversation. The more I see of the Teckendorfs the more I like them, and uncle J. says that he hears them well spoken of everywhere. I was at the gymnastics

this morning and surprised the man
by the distance I can jump, which
is more than he can - yet I only
jumped 12 feet and I have often
done $13\frac{1}{2}$! Tell this to uncle Frank
and ask him when he intends to
write to me. From the very first
day at the gymnastics I could always
vault over a height as high as
my shoulder, which is the highest
vault the man has. I shall send this
letter and mamma's to morrow evening
when perhaps I may have something
more to say. 5.30. p.m. You
see this letter is written at 3
different times, which I find to
be the only way of getting through
my correspondence. I cannot imagine
how this paper gets so many blots
for they seem to appear by magic
There was skating yesterday morning

but on my going there in the afternoon
I found that it had been stopped.
I forget if I told you that a seat
in the church which was assigned
to me by Mr Dale, will ^{be} 9/ for
a year that being the shortest
time it can be had for. To day
it has been most delightfully soft
while yesterday it was freezing
all day, this makes it very hard
to dress suitably, as, if you put
on a warm coat you may be over-
powered, or if a light one you
may be half frozen, however
my cold and cough are gone, and
this is by no means a cold-catching
place. This, ^{I said} tomorrow morning
instead of to day, as I had intended
so you ought to get it on Tuesday
evening or Wednesday morning at latest.

Francis E. Prendergast.