

Dresden 1859

Sunday March 13

10. a. m.

if Papa is not at home when  
this comes send it in to him  
My dear Papa reading it first.

The Baron has just come into  
my room to speak about my  
staying with him. You know I  
am here by the month, and on  
April the 1<sup>st</sup> we will move  
into new quarters; on May 1<sup>st</sup> he  
receives the American family Better.  
(father, ~~mother~~ and son) until  
they come he has plenty of room,  
but when they come there would  
be no room (according to present  
arrangements) for me. A. B.

He had arranged this with them  
before Christmas so that they  
were engaged long before I came.  
I think he told this to uncle J.  
when he was making arrange-



ments for me, but he probably forgot to tell you. The Baron says that if he was sure of any remaining with him till summer - no exact time need be fixed - he would make arrangements so as to manage this but that he could not undertake it otherwise, on account of the expense. This I think is very proper, and I believe that the family are really anxious for me to stay with them - at all events I am. He wishes to have an answer as soon as possible, so I hope you will answer without delay as <sup>up</sup> to what time my stay is certain to last, which of course of does not preclude its being longer if desirable.



I shall speak about this to uncle  
J. after church but at all events  
I wish you would answer either  
to him or me as soon as  
possible, or if that does not  
give you time to think to tell  
him to act as he thinks best.  
In short anything would be  
better than to leave this fam-  
-ily. The baron wishes to know  
as soon as possible, so I sup-  
-pose if you write immediately  
I might get the answer by  
Friday or Saturday. I am afraid  
that the composition writing and  
spelling of this letter is not what  
it ought to be as I am writing  
against time, for the time  
for going to church is rapidly



nearing. I made a very pleasant  
walk yesterday with young T.  
which combined the triple ad-  
-vantages of exercise, com-  
-pany and speaking German.  
I shall probably begin, and ~~finish~~  
finish if possible another letter  
to night as at present I have  
only time to fill this sheet.  
The poor Baroness has been  
laid up these last two days  
but to day she made her  
appearance again.

Francis E. Undergast



Dresden.

March 14. 1859.

My dear mamma

I shall be very glad to get over  
a few small things by Miss  
Preusser. I wish you would look  
out a few small views of any  
pretty parts of Ireland - Roskilly  
or Killarney for instance - and  
send them to me <sup>via Miss P.</sup> as I wish  
to give the G's something for  
their albums, pick out some  
with mountain and sea scenery  
if possible. I think you will find  
that you will have to get another  
blind in place of the one you have  
moved out of my room, and I  
only hope that aunt ~~the~~ Nannie  
and Grandmamma will not  
break ~~their hearts~~ with it, ~~for~~  
their hearts for



sometimes it was impossible  
to draw it up or down.

Tom I think must look very  
well on a green rug; what  
colour is the new crumb-cloth?

The projection in my plan between  
the door and stove is the wash-  
ing stand and over it hangs a  
shelf of German Books.

Last Saturday I did not speak  
one single word of English,  
unless to ask the meaning of it  
in German, this however seldom  
happens as I generally see uncle  
J. or somebody I know. Yesterday  
and to day it has been raining  
a good deal so I suppose it  
will be fine to morrow, for  
this is genuine March weather.



combining everything from a hot  
sun to a hard frost in the  
same week. I find my wife  
awake very comfortable and have  
taken to regularly wearing it.  
No news from Jack, Sharpe,  
uncle Frank, or Mr Ensell;  
Sharpe and Ensell I did not  
expect to answer however.  
Tell uncle Frank I want to  
hear all about Poeries from  
him. I am in a fearful arrears  
of letters and am endeavouring  
to knock a lot off this evening.  
I dined with uncle J. yesterday  
and we were for the first time  
without the lamp at dinner.  
I have just come in from wan-  
-dering about the town cooking



at the yearly fair, everything  
is conducted quite quietly and  
an immense deal of business  
going on. The number of Soldiers  
here is very curious, while on  
the other hand you only see  
4 or 5 policemen in a day.

They are most unlucky in weather  
for the market (or fair rather)  
but perhaps it will be fine  
to morrow. You must excuse  
the way this is written, for I  
really have not had, and will  
not have, a spare minute

to day, from 6.30<sup>a.m.</sup> till 7.30<sup>p.m.</sup>  
I have not a quiet moment  
and I must contrive to write  
some letters after supper

Francis E. Prendergast.



Dresden

March 14. 1859.

My dear Papa,

I am now beginning this with the intention of having it ready for to-morrow. I had a good deal of talk yesterday with uncle Jeffry about the state of affairs, and he paid a visit to the Baron, ~~and~~ the result is, that we all think it (my staying, that is) will be easily managed, at all events I am sure of remaining as I am at present, until the 1<sup>st</sup> May. To day and to-morrow are the days of the Jahr Markt, or yearly fair, and the streets are all blocked up with booths, street music may be heard in all directions too, N. B. this strictly prohibited on all other occasions. I am going to tea at



Mrs Whittle's tomorrow evening  
to meet the Allens and uncle  
Jeffry and aunt M. On coming  
in this morning at about 12.45  
(I had begun with gymnastics at  
7.15 a.m. and had been busy all  
the intermediate time) I found  
a note on the table, and on open-  
-ing it found a card of a Mrs  
J. Trumbull White hoping to have  
the pleasure of seeing me at  
8 o'clock on Thursday evening  
next. I never heard of her in  
my life, but of course I shall  
go, perhaps uncle J. or Mrs Whit-  
-tle will know something about  
her. I suppose it is a dancing  
party from the hour. I have



been at 5 balls since I left Ire-  
land and have been invited to  
3 more which I think is on  
the whole pretty well. I have  
been a good deal with young G.  
latety and ~~and~~ <sup>am</sup> beginning  
to like him very much; he will  
have some holidays at Easter  
and also at Whitsumtide, and  
having found that he is fond  
of walking I have been proposing  
to take a stretch of a week  
or so somewhere, which he thinks  
would be a very good plan.

Prague - in Bohemia - is only 80  
miles <sup>off</sup> and the scenery beautiful;  
everybody is raving about the beauty  
of Prague, and the Saxon  
Switzerland lies on the way.



It would be easy to go there  
and back in 8 or 9 days and I  
fancy the living would be next  
to nothing. What do you say  
to this? There could not be a  
better way of seeing the country  
and such opportunities may not always  
occur for seeing strange countries  
and learning German, for, for  
the time I was away, I of course  
would speak nothing but German.  
Take a look at some of the ~~many~~  
numerous maps about the house  
- I think you will find good maps  
of this part of the world in my  
collection of those of the Society  
for the D. of U. & K. - and tell  
me what you think of it.



I think I will call on uncle J.  
this afternoon to see if he knows  
anything about this Mr J. J.  
White. I have borrowed a German  
book on Butterflies from young  
Scheidt and find that  
they have pretty nearly the same  
Butterflies as we have. The  
plates, or rather woodcuts, are  
the best I have yet seen and  
are beautifully coloured. He  
is, or was a collector and seems  
to take a great interest in  
Natural History in general  
I was talking about architecture  
the other evening to the Baron  
when to my surprise he brought  
out 2 large folios of plates  
and letterpress on the subject



in question, and at another  
time he brought out a whole  
lot of maps of all kinds  
and descriptions. —

I have just seen uncle J. and  
he can give me no information  
about the invitation I received  
this morning, but he recommended  
me to go, which however I had  
intended from the first. I have  
heard some more about the  
new house which makes me  
think that everything can &  
will be arranged all right.  
I shall post this tomorrow mor-  
-ning on my way to the riding  
school.

F. E. Prendergast