

Dresden

March 21. 1859.

My dear papa,

I received your letter of Thursday this morning. All the difficulty about room in the new house has been settled by a most melancholy event. Mrs Better is dead. I saw her and her son coming out of the church yesterday week; on Monday evening she was sitting quite quietly when all of a sudden she turned deadly pale and began to talk in such a way as to leave no doubt of her brain being affected and on Friday evening she died! Is it not a melancholy story? What the father and son are going to do the Baron does not know

and of course cannot ask them
at present, but at all events
I am now sure of a room.
Mrs B. had always been in delicate
health, but still nothing ~~to~~
unusual. According to the
present state of politics, I should
think my movements in the sum-
-mer must be rather problemati-
-cal, everyone here expects war
some sooner, some later. It
sounds so odd to hear the
Baroness quietly talking about
having officers quartered in the
house - N.B. They have been
in two revolutions in different
towns and have often had
officers quartered upon them
and on one occasion soldiers.

French I am working at with
M. Coate, but as to speaking
it and German at the same
time, it is impossible, it is
hard to imagine two languages
more opposed, however that
does not prevent my ~~at~~ reading
and writing it, the last I find
very hard; whenever I want
to speak the French, out comes
the German which as far as the
words that I know are concerned
seems quite natural. Classics
I could not study at present
without neglecting my other mas-
ters, for I am absolutely working
all my time for these, except
what is required for writing
letters and walking. Recollect

that breakfast takes 1 hour
dinner $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 and supper
from 7:30 till 10. This how-
ever is time well spent as I
am speaking or hearing German
all the time instead of English
as a Hughes. Drawing is the
only thing I could leave off
and my master is such a good
and pleasant one that it would
be a pity to do so. It is a
thing though at which I never
can be a proficient through
want of taste for it, and more
than all my bad sight, which
goes against me in everything
and particularly in drawing and
fencing. Uncle J. is anxious
for

for me to begin mathematics
but I cannot do everything at
once. When the weather improves
I shall be able to have my riding
and gymnastic lessons an hour
earlier which will give more
time. I went to the Grosser
Garten today to look for
uncle J. and hit on him by
the merest chance in a back
walk, he said that there was
nothing more in his letter than
ⁱⁿ mine. I dined with him yesterday
and after dinner we went in
and paid a visit to Mrs Whittle
and saw the Allen's there.

I met Captain Montgomery also
yesterday evening and had a talk
with him about the Faxon

Switzerland which he praises
very much. I forgot to ask
him if it was equal to Donegal.
The having to pay for the delivery
of letters here is a great nuisance
3 pfennige for each letter (3
pfennige are somewhat less than
a halfpenny). These aforesaid
pfennige are a shocking bother
themselves two - 9 make one penny!
one never knows what to do
with them and they are very
much used. They have also got
Austrian florins in circulation
here (value the same as with us)
and also Saxon and Prussian
10 grochen (1/1) pieces which are
almost exactly the same size;

this is caused by the superior purity
of the Austrian silver. I have
seen no gold but there is some
gold in circulation. The notes of
from every value from ~~2~~ 3/ upwards
are very convenient indeed, but
not so the heavy Thalers (3/)
which are almost as bad a 5/
piece with us. I hear that the sol-
-diers here are getting double drill
and exercise all day long with
their rifles at the other side of
the New Stadt. What is uncle
George about? I have not heard
of him for an age. I am afraid
Charley J. will never have a
months health while he is in his
present office, I always thought
so from the first indeed, as

you may remember. Sie haben
ein großes Buch und ich hoffe nicht
daß Sie ungünstig Mr W. so
bald gegen sie urtheilen in
Mastmoralandstreifen.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. I had inadvertently written
some German there which as
far as I can ^{now} make out has
no earthly sense, I am nearly
tumbling asleep over this 12:15 a.m.