

Dresden.

Saturday 7. May. 1859.

My dear Papa,

My last letter was dated from
the Winterberg on Wednesday
evening - well next morning it
was a pour of rain so starting
early was out of the question,
however it cleared up about
10.30 - that is pretty nearly, but
not quite ~~dawn~~ and passing
over the Lesser Winterberg and
another most lovely rock called
the Kuhstall or. Cowhouse reached
a place called Schandau where
we got some provender, crossed
the Elbe, took the train and were
home here at 6 p.m. (Thursday)

The expenses of this latter trip
- and I paid all of the expenses
were £ 4. 9^x. Does not that
seem very little considering that
^x the Berlin trip was £ 2. 12. so that the two
journeys cost in all £ 7. 1^p. !!!

we were out from Sunday morning
till Thursday evening? It really
was 15/ more, but I made
so much by changing a Laxon
20 dollar (= £ 3.) into Austrian
paper money here which is
to be had now for about
2/3 two thirds of its value
while in Austria it of course
holds its nominal value.

Our living in Prague for two nights
at the best Hotel there only
cost 1/ (!!!) through this exchange.
Now is the time for travelling
in Austria or her dependencies.

You need not alarm yourself
about the war on my account
and uncle Jeffry says he does
not see why it should interfere
with me, Sweden, or any travelling

projects - nor do I see why it should hinder my going south.

While we were talking over our adventures at supper the maid came to say that Mr Prendergast was waiting for me, I ran out and found Harry Prendergast in my room, of course I should never have recognised him if he had not said ~~to me~~ who he was; we had some talk and as he wished to see uncle J. I took him over - he having only ~~be~~ just arrived from & Berlin and knowing nothing about Dresden. Uncle Jeffry was at a concert but luckily came back in a few minutes and then wanted him and me to stay to tea; he of course was very glad of it, but

I managed to get off it and came back to the Seckendorffs.

Next morning uncle Jeffry called in and said that they were going to have an early dinner with Harry and then were going down in the

train to the ~~near~~ ^{the} Baster or nearest end of Laxon I. so of course

I was very glad to go and we had a very pleasant day there.

Uncle J. then invited Harry and me to come and dine with him to day, and then come to the Opera; we accepted —

Harry rather uneasy at not getting off to day, for it seems he can't rest quiet till he gets to the seat of war. He seems much the worse of his wounds.

I am greatly the better of my two
trips, except that they have so
unsettled me that I am afraid
I shall find it rather dull here,
for I can think of nothing but
blue hills, green pine woods, and
the pleasure of being at liberty to go
where you like with your traps
on your back. I cannot and
will not continue the riding any
more, I have managed to keep
to it for nearly 4 months now,
principally for uncle Joe's sake,
but it has always been disagreeable
to me and I always looked
upon it as the only thing which
prevented me from being quite
contented here, the very thinking
about it tormenting me.
I shall take the gymnastics and
fencing every morning instead.

Don't let uncle Willy think that
I shall go to it again for I
will not and if he or uncle
Joe knew how disagreeable it
was to me I am sure they would
not wish me to be at it again,
I held out as long as I could
but longer I cannot.

I shall see about getting the
classical master immediately
and I have German and French
lessons again to day so that I am
at work again. The warm
weather seems to have set in at
last and it is time for it.

Dresden looks really very beautiful
now - it has not perhaps so
many fine buildings as most
cities but its gardens river and
walks are lovely.

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You can't think what a difference
the being a fortnight without speaking
any English whatever made and it
seemed quite strange speaking
it again with Harry and Uncle
Jeffry. I feel quite at a loss
for my ~~knob~~ knapsack, it seems
as if I had lost something.
I could never have expected that
one would become so accustomed
to it. Tell Uncle Frank that
there is a new coinage in Austria
since last November, according
to which the Gulden (florin)
consists of 100, instead of 60
Kreutzers, the new Kreutser thus
equalling as nearly as possible a
farthing.* 2 old Kr are computed
to equal 3 new, while the silver
6 Kr. is computed to equal 10 new!
* 50 equal 48 farthings

Perhaps you might think it advisable
for me to begin any intended travels
at once, as there is no danger or
hinderance at present, and there
is no saying what may happen
soon. Austria might be seen
to great advantage and at
a much cheaper price than in
more settled times. I mean on
account of the state of her paper
money at present, but I suppose
it is too early in the year for
Switzerland. As long as affairs
remain in the present state there
can be no reason for being
alarmed, so long as one keeps
out of Sardinia.

Francis E Prendergast.