

Dresden

May 10. 1859.

My dear papa,

I am beginning a letter though without having anything to tell you, except that I have been much the worse of the last - and last it shall be - riding lesson I took, it was on Saturday morning ~~and~~ on Sunday I was far from well, and on Monday evening had to go to bed at 8.30 being completely shaken up by it in all parts.

However I was all right again this morning. It is the old story over again which happened every time I re-commenced at Clarendon. I think there must be something in my constitution which rebels against riding and most certainly my inclination does.

I have made myself a writing stand, by placing a chair on a table, and now do all my writing and some of my reading standing, as I thought I was getting pains in my chest from stooping so much. I have been studying the map a good deal lately to see what can be done in the travelling way in summer; here are two plans which are almost entirely by rail or steamer. Dresden to Vienna by rail, thence by steamer up the Danube to Regensburg, thence by post to Munich. Thence by rail to the Lake of Constance (German ~~the~~ Bodensee), through Switzerland, down the Rhine to Mainz, and thence to Dresden.

- home, or wherever I am to go
A second plan. Rail to Vienna
thence per rail to Trieste, Venice,
Verona, Milan & Lake of Como
through Switzerland and down
the Rhine or back to Vienna
via Munich and the Danube
This last sounds formidable, but
it is not much longer than the
other and Vienna and Switzerland
must always be the two chief
points. Take a look at these
routes on the map.

11.th Yesterday I spent $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour in
the Picture Gallery and then listened
to the military music at the parade
- and a very poor parade it is - for
half an hour. I saw many persons
at work in the Gallery copying, and
it is very amusing to watch them
fruitlessly endeavouring to catch

the expression of the old masters
The people are mostly young ladies
or old men - odd shaggy looking
figures in piratical looking
dresses and bandit-like hats.

I have gone with uncle Jeffry to
the tailors and ordered a light
shooting coat of a brownish mixture
and a pair of light trousers.

I want to try the coat on to day
and I suspect it will have a
very foreign cut, fitting in close
to the small of the back &c.

I have arranged to take a gymnastic
lesson 6 times a week at 7 a.m.
and if I find I have time may
perhaps take 2 more. I was to have
had the company of a young
Hungarian count this morning who
thinks himself a great dab at
vaulting and jumping, and Stateroh
wants

but he did not make his appearance
wants to try him against me.

Perhaps also it might be advisable,
if the time is not otherwise occupied
to ^{have} the French 4 times instead
of three as at present.

I have not opened an English book,
except to translate it, for more
than a month and my German
master tells me I write much
better, which I suppose is in con-
sequence of that.

I see maps
of Northern Italy hung out in all
directions and a very fine Italian
map of this ~~part~~ which was
hanging before in a window has
disappeared within the last fort-
-night.

The Saxon Artillery
are all quartered out at a place
called Fesselsdorf about 3 miles
to the south west, and I am to

walk out with the Baron the first
fine day and see them. By the
way it was so cold to day that
I was sorry I had not taken
out an overcoat with me, while
in the morning it was hot.

It is certainly a most disagreeable
climate here in Dresden, and
the number of cripples and sickly
looking people you see in the
streets bears witness to its un-
healthiness. What pleased me
so much in Berlin was the
fine strong looking figures of
the people so different from
the puny ill made Saxons.

There has been a great clearance
at Hugs this Easter, both the
Russians being off, Estliniger as

engineer to Munich, and Stiffle
to England. Smith too making
a third. However there is a
Lifeguardman arrived to whom
young is giving conversational
lessons at some miserable rate,
about 10/ a month I think,
however & I fancy that he is
learning English quicker than
his pupil German. The fellows
name is Burnaby, not more
than 18 and very tall. Do you
know anything about him?

The large rafts are beginning
to come down the river now,
and I saw one to day on which
I counted upwards of 20 men.
It is very interesting to watch
them ~~pass~~ shooting the ~~Lock~~ Bridge

There is no ~~the~~ fresh news of
any kind here nor is any expected
for some days. The worst of it
is that that there is no believing
anything you see in a German
paper as it is pretty sure to
be cooked to the German taste.
I sent 4 books to be bound
to day, 2 volumes of a German
edition of Sir Walter Scott and
2 volumes of Andrees Geographische
Wanderungen.

J. E. Wendergast

Dresden

May 11th 1858

My dear mamma,

I shall begin this letter by requesting that if you have any opportunity, you will send me some straw paper as I always like it for writing when in a train as it holds pencil so well and can also be used equally well for ink. It is not known here.

The neighbourhood of Dresden is most lovely now with the fruit trees, which are in full bloom and make a great show. The horse chestnuts too make a great show but I do not think they are finer than our own. I have been

planning all sorts of schemes for travelling which I suppose will seem to you tremendous but to

me seem like a trip to Donegal
or Killarney. If I am to remain
on the Continent in autumn I think
I should like to go to southern
Germany or Northern Italy - Leghorn
for instance; but at present there
can only be speculations though
indeed I do not see what wars
or revolutions have to say to me.
You may read the enclosed to
Georgy Enson, and please forward
it to him. We take the war
news quite quietly here and beyond
a feeling of curiosity and some
slight patriotism it raises no
excitement. I am thinking of
getting myself photographed à la
uncle Joe some time soon, how
many copies would like me to get?

Francis E. Prendergast.
Thursday, morning

No room for G's letter I shall send it in my next

Thursday morning May 12. 10. a.m.
I received yours of the 8th (Sunday) last
night. Harry had left on Sunday
so I could go with him and whether
I shall follow him or not may be
decided for by uncle Jeffery. I should
be in favour of waiting till July
when I hope to get a good thing
as you will perceive from the first
part of this letter. There would not
be much advantage being with Harry
as he is unable to take much
exercise and is not troubling his
head much about sight seeing.
I wish you could find some one
with whom I could travel, for
though I like travelling alone
very well still it is pleasanter
to have a companion and it
reduces the expenses. I shall
now go in to uncle Jeffery and
if he advises me to go may
possibly be off in a couple of

hours. However I do not think that he will approve of it as if he had he would have probably sent me a note before this.

It would be a long way to go to Vienna only for a few days when I must pass that place if I go to Switzerland in the summer.

7.30 p.m. I saw uncle Jeffry this morning and he agreed with me that there would be no use in following Harry as he is probably out of Vienna this time. I should like if possible to be off before the middle of July for I suppose Switzerland and Vienna will probably both be feasible even if the war does spread.

I have just come in from a 5 hours walk with the Baron having been to Kesseldorf to look for the artillery and did not find them. On getting back he said well I think a 5 hours walk is not so bad for a man of 58½.

F. E. L.