

Dresden

May 22<sup>d</sup> 1859.

My dear Papa,

Since my last letter we have had nothing but fine warm weather and the unavoidable glare. Uncle Jeffry tells me that in summer he never goes out between 10 and 4 if he can avoid it, for the heat and glare is so great. I went out on a drawing expedition with young I. yesterday, his object being to sketch railway stations, but we wandered about so long that finally we had only time left to draw an iron bridge. To day, to morrow and the next day Austrian troops will be passing through here supposed to be en route for Giesbruck; 16,000 it is said which would require about



about 16 trains on the calculation  
of every carriage containing 50 men  
and each train composed of 20  
carriages. There is even some talk  
of their stopping here and as this  
would be what is called War-  
-billeting (Rings (Inquisition)) the  
So would have three or four put  
in upon them. However I don't  
fancy that it will be so. Other  
reports send the troops to the Rhine  
but the fact is that nobody knows  
where they are going to. That they  
are to pass through however is certain  
for notices have appeared in the  
papers saying that on these days  
many of the usual trains will be  
discontinued and none but mail  
or courier trains will run.



There has been great whistling going  
on all the morning since an early hour  
so perhaps they are going through at  
this minute. We are going to have  
a new lodger, <sup>here</sup> on the first of June;  
- an old Prussian colonel who is  
coming to drink the mineral waters  
in the Struvsche Garten here.

He will only be here till July 1<sup>st</sup>.  
There is also a probability of an  
English lady named Butler coming  
here, she was sent by some of Mrs  
Whittles friends so I conclude she  
is a lady. She can speak very  
little German and the Prarous  
English was unintelligible to her  
and they besought for me everywhere  
to come and act as interpreter but  
unluckily I was out, so did not



see her. She was going to the country  
for three weeks and would make  
up her mind in the mean while so  
that she will not be here (if  
she comes at all) for a month at least.

The Greek I find goes into German much  
easier than Latin but the pronunciation  
is ~~fe~~ very different; first the accent is  
always on the syllable where the accent is;  
ov and v are both pronounced oo (as  
in foot) y and e are both pronounced  
as a in wave av is pronounced  
ou (as in proud) θ is pronounced like  
t. i is of course pronounced ee  
and ev is pronounced oi; and as  
the Germans <sup>can</sup> make little little or  
no difference between p & b; d &  
t; g & k, it changes the sound com-  
pletely, making it quite soft and  
liquid



liquid;  $\chi$  too is pronounced like  
our  $gh$  in lough,  $\chi\rho\eta$  being pronoun-  
-ced ghray -  $\omicron\nu\kappa\omicron\nu\nu$  = oogoon  
 $\mu a\beta en\delta eiv$  = gadoidian &c.

Monday 23. Your letter came  
this morning and I have just  
had a gymnastic lesson from  
7 till 8, then home to my breakfast,  
a German lesson from 9 till 10  
and from 10 till 12.30 French, after  
which as you may imagine I am  
pretty well tired. I do not like  
singing my own praises but I think  
it right to tell you that after  
talking with my German master  
for an hour this morning (not  
happening to have work prepared)  
he told me that he considered  
I had made as much progress in



the German generally as could be  
expected in the time, and that  
he was quite surprised at the  
ease and correctness with which  
I spoke it and that if I had  
given half the time I spent at  
~~the~~ drawing, in writing it that  
I would have been at this time  
able to have written very fairly.  
French of course continues (and must  
continue as long as I am in Germany)  
to be almost impossible for me  
to speak but I think I am  
beginning to get on better with the  
writing it. My reading desk I found  
not to answer in practice and I  
have rigged up another contrivance  
with a portfolio raised on a few books  
but it is nearly the same as any ordinary  
table

Francis E. Prendergast.



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May 22<sup>d</sup> 1859.

My dear mamma,

Since my last letter nothing of importance  
had occurred, unless you consider my  
getting a very handsome moth from the  
youngest Leckendorff as such. It is  
called *Spinx ocellata* (eyed hawkmoth  
I think) and if you wish to find his  
picture you probably can by looking in  
the moth book of the naturalists' library  
or in Catterer; he (the youngest I. by  
name Arthur, which is pronounced  
Artoor in German) is also a fancier  
and has lent me an improved edition  
of his brothers Butterfly book.

The second supply of paper which I  
bought is again run out, but that  
is easily replaced. We shall have  
the grand (gr?) public entrance of the  
Prince and princess here next Saturday,



which I suppose will be a grand holiday,  
they are constructing a gigantic arch  
in the Alt Markt and Adolfs  
heart is nearly broken because the  
Polytechnic School was not allowed  
to get up a torch-dance or rather  
procession. The Lo sit every evening  
now from 9 till 10 in their little  
garden in front which seems to be the  
greatest delight in the world for  
the Germans. The ~~dry~~ dryness of the  
air here is very curious and thus  
enables people to be out in the  
evening and sitting in the open air  
without the least fear of catching  
cold. Ink too dries up in the most  
extraordinary way and when writing,  
the preceding word is dry before you  
have finished the following one.



2. h. m.

Monday 23.<sup>d</sup> I have just returned from the Railway Station where we had been seeing a tremendous long train full of Austrian (Hungarian) troops passing through; there must have been 30 carriages I think all full. The number of troops to pass through is 38,000 and 8 trainfuls are to pass through to day.

They stop in the New Stadt for an hour for refreshments ~~but~~ that is all ~~we~~ have to do with them here. Your letter came this morning enclosing Grandmamma's but I don't think there are any questions to be answered.

I was out a long drive yesterday with uncle Jeffry and then in the evening got a fine view of Saturn



through his telescope; through this  
telescope he looks about a quarter  
of the size of the moon and his  
ring and its shadow is plainly  
perceptible. The telescope is hard  
to manage and requires to be constantly  
moved as the planet travels along  
the field of view in no time.

Uncle J. has not succeeded in  
catching Jupiter yet, but though he  
was plainly visible to the eye the  
other evening he could not ~~not~~  
be found by the telescope at all!  
much to uncle J's disgust who  
spent  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in hunting him.

F. E. Vendergast.