

Dresden

June 6. 1859

My dear Papa

Yours of the 1st came this morning
and I begin my answer to it at once.
Regarding your ideas about my stay in
Dresden - which is the principal point
in your letter. You seem altogether
to ignore my not being able to speak
a word of French, the want of which
I find every day more and more.

German is a top top language to
know, without a doubt, but I am
pure French is more important, and
the difficulty of learning it would be
much greater in a year or two, to
say nothing of the thousand and
one things that may be in the way
in a year or two. If you wish
me to remain on the continent

my idea

during the winter, would be this:
Supposing I go off on my wanderings
on ~~the~~ August 1st and get back
on or before the first of October;
I could then remain here till about
Christmas, when I might move
down to Switzerland (Vevey, Lausanne
or thereabouts) and spend 2 or 3
months in a ~~good~~ Swiss family
where I would hear nothing but
French; this I think ought to give
my French a good lift and would
at all events put me in the way
of speaking French, of which it is
high time that I should know some
more than I do at present.
I have often spoken to uncle Jeffry
about this, and he approves highly of

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it, agreeing with me about the great importance of French. This would give me a whole year in Germany, which I think ought to suffice for the present. I shall never spend the spring in Dresden again if I can help it, for the weather was most disagreeable and I had generally something wrong (in a trifling way I mean) with me. I look upon the time spent on the continent as in a great manner lost to the classics and what might be termed school = studies generally, though of ~~course~~ course much is gained in other respects; learning ^{foreign languages} through must always be a great drawback, not only from the difficulty of it, but also from the

extra amount of time it requires.
If I return to Dresden I must
make some effort about getting
on with mathematics and algebra and
arithmetic; the last ~~two~~ - particularly
algebra I am ~~very~~ backward in,
and they are both most necessary
whether for college or every day
life. If living in Switzerland I
could of course very soon pursue
classics and mathematics in French
(at least I think so) to say nothing
of seeing a new country, new people,
new language, and new modes of
life; and uncle Jeffry assures me
that there are houses without end
of the kind I should require.
Perhaps afterwards I might get down

down

Italy - ways and pick up something
of the language; - but this last is
merely speculation. I wish you would
think over the Switzerland idea and
tell me what you think about it.
Ask uncle Jeffry his opinion.
I do not see that any plans need
be disturbed by the wars - except
that one must keep out of
Italy for the present, if they wish
to travel in comfort. You made
a slight mistake about Tegernsee
in one of your letters - it is not
in the Tyrol but a few miles
on the Bavarian side of the
frontier. June 8th I met uncle
Jeffry in the Grosser Garten this
morning and told him of your plan
for my stay here. He grumbled
and said "now I don't think that the

winter in Dresden would be the thing
for you; German is a most important
language &c &c, but French &c &c.,
so you may write to him and hear
his opinions on the matter which
would probably be the best you could
hear; so tell you say more about
the question and get his opinions
I shall remain silent.

I am afraid I shall not be
able to get young I. to come
with me, ^{on a trip} but at all events
I shall go somewhere, where
to I don't know. I met
Hogarth, the little cracked
Frenchman who was at Hughes,
this morning; he said he was
going back to Paris tomorrow,
so that Hughes will be pretty
empty now.

Francis E. Prendergast

Dreadon

June 8th 1859.

My dear mamma

Yours enclosing aunt Nannie's has just arrived. I received one from Mary and aunt Elizabeth yesterday so this week I am in a flood of letters which is by no means usually the case now. I think they describe Miss H. in very high terms and she seems to be the very thing that they wanted. The flannel shirt I have got is checkered blue and white, but I have not begun to wear it yet as the collar (which I had to get made) is not yet back from the wash. If it suits well, I shall get some more and another shirt. I have also some thoughts of getting a ruba for 10/6 as the shooting coat, though I can't find any fault with it, is not the

most comfortable thing for ~~the~~
walking in. Its fault (if any)
is being too good a fit and yet
I cannot say that it is too tight
anywhere. You ask if I am for-
getting how to speak English.

Of course I can speak it as well
as ever but I sometimes hesitate
for a word and often over
the construction. In consequence
also of reading little or no English
I find the spelling getting very
hard and I often have to look
out for words. The English
Lady - Miss Puckle - has come.
She came on Saturday. She is
is a tall, goodlooking, somewhat
stiff, and aristocratic looking
person of between 35 and 40,

with most ladylike manners. She
speaks little or ~~no~~ ^{of} German, but
seems very anxious to learn. She is
a painter, but I have not seen any
of her performances yet. Her
sister is married to Brady, who
is, or was Lord Chancellor or some-
thing* in Dublin. She has ~~has~~ a brother
holding some Government appoint-
ment in Quebec (Customs I think)
and another brother who was gold
licence commissioner in Australia
and has now got some other appoint-
ment there. I have also discovered
that her family live ^{or near} at Brighton
and also in Huntington.

I like her very well but her not
understanding German is a great
nuisance for me as I must of course

+ I have forgotten the names of all our officials and told
a German the other day that Lord Carlisle was our L.D.!

talks a good deal to her and also
interpret a great deal. I have
a great dislike to speaking English
with or even before Germans, and
the I's laugh at me, and say
they never heard me speak a
word of English till Miss P.
came.

We had the two
American ladies in to supper
last night and had a very pleasant
evening. Adolf says that if
he wanted a lady to talk with he
^{would} certainly take an American, but
if he had to marry a foreigner
he would take an Englishwoman!

They are certainly very lively and
amusing as well as pretty. They are
living here with Mrs Davis to learn
German and other accomplishments.

I make ^{many} travelling plans but
I have not got a satisfactory
one made yet, and it is possible
that the Tyrol may be impos-
sible in August and the
French may be in Vienna in
6 weeks; Switzerland will
however be pretty sure to be
always open.

The weather here continues
warm and sunny and I
don't know of any news in
particular to tell you except
that we paid a visit at
Lockwitz (the Preussers) on
Sunday, and that the Baron
went off this evening to

Hamburg for a few days
about some business.

The Prussian colonel is
very agreeable and tells many
good stories; he has the iron
cross, a mark of distinguished
valour; he made the cam-
-paign against Bonaparte with
the Prussians, and was wounded
at the battle of Leipzig.

Francis E. Prendergast

P.S. June 9th Ask papa whether he thinks
it would be best to go via Vienna to
Tegern See, or first to Tegern See via
Munich and then to Vienna and back
again towards Switzerland. I am in
favour of the first route. The rail is open
from Vienna to Gmunden via Linz.
Tegern See is about 5 hours from Munich,
the rail going half way.