

Hotel  
La Reine Imperiale

1859

Teplitz. June 12.  
7. p.m.

My dear Papa,

I left Dresden yesterday morning by the 7. a.m. train getting out at Mügeln, the second station from Dresden; from thence I proceeded on foot (alone, for Adolf was going to the Saxon Switzerland with a class of the Polytechnic and could not accompany me) through the valley of the Rother Wasser, or red water, on towards Teplitz and through the Erz mountains. The river is rather small, but the water is of the most extraordinary red colour, not merely reddish

but of a bright blood red  
looking as if it were run-  
ning over a bed of red lead,  
and strange to say getting  
redder and redder as you ap-  
proached its source; the  
valley through which it  
flows is lovely, and swarming  
with Butterflies many of  
which I had never seen before  
but unluckily had neither  
time or opportunity to catch.

I walked on, and on passing  
Glasshütte and Lauenstein,  
the latter a curious old  
German village off the  
postroad, ~~and~~ clean, neat,  
and almost all the houses  
white with green shutters.

At both of these places

I laid in bread cheese and  
beer. By the way I do not  
know if I ever told you  
that I had taken to drinking  
beer when walking in Bohemia  
before; you get a large  
tankard of einfaches or simple  
(plain, in English probably) beer  
for somewhere about three farthings  
it is not much stronger than  
toast and water, but is very  
good for quenching the thirst.  
I had started, foolishly enough  
- but I could not help it -  
with a blister on one foot  
and a pair of two-day-old  
shoes, ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> which I soon began  
to feel that my feet were  
getting knocked up, and I  
asked at one or two places

if I could get any conveyance  
but they laughed and said  
I would have to send <sup>for</sup> Teplitz  
for it, so I was obliged to  
push on, and I pushed  
on and on, passing the  
frontier which is marked by  
a small stream and finally  
~~reached~~ <sup>reached</sup> the summit of  
the hills which command  
the view of Teplitz.

Here you get a magnifi-  
-cent view of the rich and  
lovely Bohemia, looking  
so fertile and teeming after  
Saxony. The road now  
began to run in a winding  
line down the sides of the  
hills and I had ocular  
demonstration

demonstration in three ways  
that I was in Bohemia,  
first in the cast of features  
~~which~~ which seems to change  
the moment you are over  
the border, secondly the  
figures of the Virgin, crosses  
&c which meet ones eye at  
every turning, and thirdly  
in the dirt and neglect  
Irish look which prevailed  
everywhere. At 9.15 a.m.

I got in to Teplitz, not  
tired, but very, very footsore  
and beaten; I had been  
out nearly 14 hours, at  
least 12 of which I had  
begun on foot, the distance is

reckoned at at about 25 miles which I should say was about right, though I had probably gone a few more. By the way I forgot to tell you that in the middle of the day when the sun was very hot I got tired, and turned into a pine wood where with my knapsack as a pillow I slept for an hour and was greatly refreshed thereby.

On getting in here I got something to eat and drank another canhard of beer, making the fifth I had had taken that day. Tell

this to ~~uncle~~ Frank as well as to uncle Joe for the latter recommended <sup>me</sup> to drink beer. This morning I was not out of bed until 10(!) when I got some breakfast and then went ~~4~~ out to look for Miss Tudor, for whom I had got a note from the Geckendorfs. I found <sup>her</sup> most luckily just as she was coming down the ~~4~~ stairs; she was very glad and much surprised to see me.

I then sat with her for a while in the garden and then went with her to one of the restaurants (every house

here seems to be a lodginghouse,  
restaurant or bathing house)  
where we dined; after dinner  
she introduced ~~me~~ me to a  
Bohemian family with two  
very pretty gipsy-faced  
daughters, from Prag, of the  
name of von Ropf.

We then ascended the  
hill called the Schlossberg  
which commands a splendid  
panorama of the country for  
miles round; it has some -  
= what the appearance of  
the central part of Down as  
seen from Thee Downard,  
but though the mountains  
are really higher they do not  
look

half the height of those of  
Mourne. This part of  
Bohemia is certainly lovely.  
Miss Tudor is going off to  
Prag and then in a few  
days and will ~~the~~ stop for  
some time near Gmunden  
in the Salzkammergut in  
the Tyrol, where I hope  
to meet her ~~again~~ again in  
August. I have also got  
Mrs Whittles address in the  
south of Bavaria near  
the Bodan See (Lake of  
Constance, I think it is in  
English) so perhaps I  
may be able to give her  
a call; the Allens are with

her too, so I have chances  
of seeing a good many friends  
in the summer.

Altogether I have had a  
very pleasant day, and to-  
morrow I shall go back  
by the train as my feet are  
not in a condition to stand  
any more walking at present.  
Before leaving Dresden I  
changed a 5 dollar note  
-15/- into Austrian money  
for which I got 10 gulden  
and a half which equals  
21/!! is not that an  
enormous profit. I am  
afraid now that I shall  
have to take a great deal of

it back in which case I shall  
lose even more in changing  
it back into Taxon money.  
I must now go and get  
something in the shape of  
supper; the coffee room here  
is always half full of white  
uniforms smoking reading the  
papers or playing billiards,  
every coffee room in Germany  
seeming to be furnished with  
a billiard table.

By the way Miss Tudor told  
me that when she was staying  
a Glenarm some time ago she  
had met a Mrs and Miss  
Irwin there and she heard  
that she had a son in the

constabulary who had married  
a very young wife! ask  
aunt Elizabeth if she re-  
collects the name. She  
also knew Mr Day of  
Dublin and many of the  
county & Dublin people.

I have got my knapsack  
made up as before out of  
one of the leggins which  
have proved more use  
than I ever expected they  
would be. I little thought  
when I was getting them years  
ago for a pair of waterproof  
boots that I would be  
using them as a knapsack  
in Bohemia.

18/ or thereabouts.  
I should probably  
be able to find one  
or two from the class  
would at all events  
be respectable and  
young I would of  
course always be  
there. The class is  
about 20 in number.  
I shall ask uncle  
J. about it tomorrow  
and if he approves  
of it join at once.  
F. E. P.

constabular

a very g

amnt Ed

-collects

also kn

Dublin

county &

I have g

made a

one of

have pr

than I

perhaps I might  
join the geological  
with young F. until  
I am going away and  
as the excursions  
last until the end  
of July it would  
just suit. They  
are every Wednesday  
afternoon from  
2 p.m. until dark.

I should have to  
take a half year  
which would be about

would be. I little thought  
when I was getting them years  
ago for a pair of waterproof  
boots that I would be  
using them as a knapsack  
in Bohemia.