

Dresden

July 2nd 1859

My dear mamma,

Your last letter arrived on Thursday
which was a very gay day for us here.

We made up a party to go to one
of the open air concerts at the
Lindesche Bad, consisting of ourselves
the two young American ladies,
and a young lady, a niece of the
Baron's who is only 16 and is going
to be married to a Prussian officer.

I had the honour assigned to me,
or rather obtained it, of going to
fetch her and escort her to the con-
cert; I really do not think I ever
saw a prettier person in my life
and she regularly threw the two
American belles into the shade.
Towards the end of the concert

our party was joined by two young
Americans and then we took
a boat and came down the Elbe
back to a 10 o'clock supper which
was the liveliest supper I was ever
~~for~~ present at, and as we had
to escort the ladies home after-
wards, nobody was in bed before
half past one or two.

The heat is getting dreadful here
and I wishing to be off to
mountain air as soon as possible
in consequence. I am glad to
hear that Charley Irwin is getting
strong and also that he has got
into another room in the office;
in what floor does he hang out in
college? What sort of an

animal is Coffey reported to be?

I do not know of anyone who is
an admirer of Louis Kap. But
Ayer, like most of those in
the French half of Switzerland, is
~~a~~ French in feelings through and
through, but he is not so violent
against the Germans as ~~any~~
Comte was.

The Grosser
Gartens are most lovely now
and almost the only cool place
about Dresden, but the worst
of them is that you must walk
a mile and in the hot sun
and dust (oh! such dust) before
you get there, which is rather a
drawback. I never saw anything
like the dust here, it seems to
remain suspended in the air, and

gets into the mouth and nose in
the most dreadful way, to say
nothing of its coming into the
rooms. I have got 3 pair of thick
woollen stockings for my journey;
strange to say I find them very
agreeable. I shall be very glad
to get back to the Is in October
for even now I am sorry at the
idea of leaving them for two months.
Miss Puckle too is a very pleasant
sort of person, always lively and
agreeable. If the ~~american~~ lady
and Miss O'Sullivan prove agreeable
we would ^{have} a family which I think
would be hard to surpass in
pleasantness and merrygness.

Francis E. Pouchergast.

5. p.m.

Dresden.

July 4. 1859.

My dear Papa

Your letter of the 1st has just arrived. Your first question is where my French master comes from; he is from Bulle a ^{town} place lying half way between Freybourg and Nevers.

I am glad to hear that Dr Seiler gives a good account of my German but I don't think I have spoken more than a word or two with him for the last three months and I hope I have made some progress in that time.

You have no idea of the heat here at present, at this moment I am writing in my shirt sleeves and have all three windows open but still the perspiration is running

down my forehead in large drops
still the heat is nothing more
(5.30 p.m.) to what it was this
morning at 10 or 12. I took
my last fencing lesson this morning
for it is only madness trying
to do anything of that kind in
this weather. Th. So tell me
it is very unusual to have
such a heat as this is, last more
than two or three days, while
this has been going on and gradually
increasing for the last fortnight.

You may imagine how the sun
is reflected when I tell you
that now at near 6 p.m. the
shadows of people passing by
are reflected through the blinds

to the opposite wall! It is im-
possible to do any sort of work
properly and I have to get up
and walk about the room at the
end of every dozen lines I am writing
now. Everybody is ~~prophesying~~
predicting a thunderstorm but there
is no indications of anything in the
shape of either it or rain.

I have got Kellers map of
Switzerland (price 5/-) and am
going out this evening to look
for a knapsack.

July 4th I have purchased what
the Germans call a Reisetasche or
travelling pocket which just holds my
equipment and looks very well when
strapped up as a knapsack. It cost

8/6 which taking the leather of which
it is made into consideration seems to
me extraordinarily cheap. Your
letter of Sunday came yesterday
and ^{as} I have got your permission to
go with Ayer, I hope to get
another with permission to start about
the 17th on Saturday. Before going
I shall write to uncle Jeffry telling
him how much I have left from
the £ 30 he gave me and then
get an order from him on his banker
here to make it up to £ 30 again
which will be the simplest way of
arranging it I think, though I am
still doubtful as to what ^{sort of} money I
ought to take with me

Francis E. Vandergrast.

Dresden

July 7. 1859.

My dear mamma

Yours of Sunday came yesterday.

In the case of going off soon I shall tell you the longest date for addressing to Dresden as soon as I can. My rule for calculating when any Dublin letter (to or from) will arrive is this, there are always 2 clear days between, so that if a letter is posted on Monday it would arrive here on Thursday afternoon, this is not invariable but it is generally so. Your last letter, stamped with a 4^d & 2^d stamp was not charged, so of course the letters now only cost 6^d. Uncle Jeffry told me that he would write on arriving at Marienbad, but ~~it~~ up to this date I have got

no letter from him, so I wrote
yesterday, thinking that a letter may
have gone astray, and he wondering
that I do not answer.

I am happy to say that we have
got some cool weather again, but
it is already showing signs of getting
warm again. I was very glad to

get the account of the Thessington
races. I had known from seeing
Charley throwing weights at Andress
last year, that he was a great hand
at it, but still it must
be a great triumph for him to
get the prize. The jumping seems
to me to have been miserable,
nor do I understand how it is
that nobody could jump more than

13 feet; — I can do that much
with my boots on! I think

I have got my kit prepared for
starting and ^{am} going to see about
getting an iron ferrule for my
stick to day, but I am afraid
I shall have some difficulty about
it, as the stick is so large.

I wonder if uncle George is really
on the move, and if he is where
he is going to; let him know of
my intended movements, as we might
perhaps meet somewhere. Is there
anyone else you know of travelling
on the continent at present?

I wish you would forward the
enclosed to uncle Joe, which
you may read if you like.

I am afraid I shall have a blue chance of seeing any of the Italian lakes, unless some change occurs in the state of the war.

Building is going on here with the greatest rapidity and Dresden is said to be very full, but certainly it does not look so. The Saxon Cavalry are going off to the Rhine or somewhere thereaway, on the 15th, and the Prussians are supposed to be going about the same date.

Some Austrian grandee passed through yesterday evening, but we do not know who he was.

Francis E. Prendergast.