

Dresden

July 11.th 1859.

My dear papa

I am greatly surprised at not hearing sooner from you, as I got a letter from uncle Frank on Friday, saying that he had read my letter proposing to go with Ayer; I much certain I should have had a letter from you on Saturday and this is now Monday evening. I am really beginning to get unwell and have lost all energy and appetite; I can neither work in the house nor exert myself to take long walks, and spend the most of my time like other people i.e. lying in a sort of listless helpless way. Only

think, one day - the 4th - the
thermometer rose to 29° which
equals nearly 100° of Fahrenheit!
The Dresdener Journal says that
there has not been such a tem-
= perature for more than 10 years.

But now comes the worst
part of the story - three days
after, the thermometer falls to
within a few degrees of the
freezing point !!! The consequence
is that every person in this house
has either a cold, cough, or sore
throat. I did not imagine that
such a change was possible in
any civilized country and I wish
with all my heart that I had

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been off long ago. At present
the thermometer is slowly getting up
again. I do not know how it
came but I had a great dislike
to the idea of bathing here, but
the L's persuaded me to try it,
and I accordingly went down to
the bathing place, where I jumped
in and swam the usual distance
down the stream - say about 20 yards,
came back and went down again; when
I came out; all of a sudden I felt
dizzy and on going into the box
to dress had to lie down, everything
becoming quite black before my eyes;
however it passed off in 15 minutes
or so, but I had a headache for
the rest of the evening, so I shall

not try it again. I forgot to
tell you that we walked out
to the Grosser Garten the other
evening and found it alive with
fireflies, they were flitting about
in myriads, emitting a ~~very~~ pale
green light and ~~they~~ looked most
beautiful, they are only to be
seen in such numbers when the
summer is ^{un}usually hot - and there
is no mistake about the heat
this summer, One person assured
me that the thermometer had been
up to 31° but that I can hardly
believe, as it would equal 102°
of Fahrenheit! Has it been
unusually hot this year in Ireland?

July 13th

July 13th (Wednesday). Your letter of Monday has just arrived, and I shall avail myself to the full of the allowance you give of starting as soon as Ayer wishes. The starts on Sunday evening (the 17th) at 2.45 p.m. and proceeding through Bavaria arrives at Lindau on Lac de Constance at 10.55 p.m. on Monday evening, next morning crosses the Lake and gets to Zürich at 12.30 p.m. (noon, not midnight) on Tuesday. If the heat continues as it is to day at 27° - for the thermometer has risen again - I shall start in company with him, but should it fall again, I shall leave on

Sunday morning at 6.15 a.m.
reach Bamberg at 9.15 p.m.
sleep there and meet him in the
train next morning at 5.10 a.m.
The object of this would be to
avoid night travelling, but if
the weather remains as it is, night
travelling is to be preferred to day
ditto, for I know from experience
that with the thermometer at
28°, a railway carriage full
of people and tobacco smoke
is anything but agreeable.

Had it not been for uncle
Jeffrys thoughtfulness I should
not have been able to go with
Ayer, for without my asking him

July 13th (Wednesday)
he sent me an order on his banker
for the 30£ so that I might
be able to start on getting permission
N.B. The post from here to Marim-
-bad takes just the same time
as to Ireland !!!

The news of the peace arrived yest-
= terday and the Germans are
in a great rage at the intelligence
abusing Austria, France, Sardinia
England and everything in short,
not forgetting Prussia who comes
in for a double dose of abuse.

Francis E. Pendergast.

I have not been able to go and
see you for some time
as I have been so busy
with my work. I am
very sorry that I cannot
do so. I hope you are
well and happy. I am
yours truly,
J. B. Jeffers

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July 13. 1859

My dear mamma,

This will be my last letter but one, from Dresden for some time to come, as you will perceive on reading papa's. Of course you are not to direct any more letters to Dresden, and ^{the} first place that can assign for writing to is Interlaken - Poste Restante.

I shall tell more about this matter in a later letter. I shall probably be there about the 24th.

I am not surprised at your not knowing what the Salzkammergut is; it is a lake & Mountain district in the Tyrol between Linz and Salzburg - I refer you

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to the maps and uncle Frank
for further information.

I am very glad at the thought of
getting out of this baking place
and breathing a little fresh air
again. Tell papa that I shall
be on the look out for some
waterproof or similar overcovering
in Switzerland, but there is no
use looking for anything here.

The stuff my portable jacket &
trousers are made of is good solid
cloth and I shall have a
complete change of clothes in
my knapsack. I paid a visit
to my godfather's drawing master

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this morning and found him suffering
from the heat like other people,
he recommended me to pay a
visit to an exhibition of pictures
here and I shall take a look in
this evening. The Russian
colonel is going off on Thursday
so the Lo will ~~be~~ be pretty empty
just now. I must pay a parting
visit to the Preussers before I go
which is rather a bother, it is so far.
I am now going to get my passport
put in order and I will have
a good deal of trouble about the
visit I dare say.

Francis E. Vandergast.