

Dresden

April 1st 1859.

My dear papa,

Since your letter which came on Monday I have not heard from Tower Terrace which rather surprises me, I, on the other hand have not written since Tuesday. Since I last wrote I have not been quite well, on Tuesday I got a most fearful headache and could not work, or read, or do anything next day I had a kind of rash and the same head-ache, so I left word with all my masters not to come, and stayed out all day (9 hours or more) and walked at least 25 miles much to the detriment of my feet which were covered too with blisters, However I got what I wished for, viz. a

good, sound sleep, next day my
headache was gone but not the rash
and I called thrice on Dr Seiler but
could not find him, to day I called
again and found him, he said
I would be all right in a few days
and told me to take 2 glasses
of magnesia water, which I have
got and shall take accordingly.

We shall not be in our new
quarters for till Wednesday at
soonest - probably Thursday, as there
is a great deal of cleaning &c
to be done. I dined with uncle
Jeffrey on Tuesday and in the evening
the windows were open and the air
like summer, next day it was very
warm and the day after that it was
snowing incessantly!! Perhaps these

sudden changes have something to
say to my complaint. Today also it
has been pretty cold, a little hail
but no frost. These sudden changes
are anything but agreeable here, and
most people have something or other
the matter with them. The ball sea-
-son seems at last to have come
to an end - at least I hear of no
more. The Thompsons have auctioned
off their furniture, and it is said
that Mr Thompson said that
that the transaction was very lucky
for him as the furniture not only
repaid its prime cost, but that
it put some money into his pocket
also! Mrs Whittle too I hear
was rather a gainer than a loser
by her auction.

Uncle Jeffry has been laughing at
me greatly for using German
idioms in English, and a young
English boy who is at school here
and in a school ~~at~~ where there
are many English boys (he is often
on Sundays at Carola Strasse) uses
a most fearful lot of German
idioms when speaking English.

Does not this seem odd? I often
speak and understand German
of which I could not tell you
the English; how does that come?
There are lots of words which I would
use correctly in speaking and yet
do not know the translation
of them. Mr Enall told me that
this would be the case, but I could
not believe him at the time.

Saturday, April 2

Saturday April 2^d.

This morning I am much better and enjoyed my ride pretty well, which I take for a good sign, and with Dr Seilers ~~poter~~ magnesia water I dare say I shall be all right on Monday. I shall not say anything about our moving as all seems to be what the Germans call "unbestimmt" or undecided. At all events we must leave this house next week, but whatever comes I am sure to be well cared for, so I shall pay no more about it till we are somewhere.

Yours of the 29th which came this morning was very welcome as I had not had a letter for 6 days.

It is said that the Lacou Switzerland can be seen in 2 days, but I doubt ^{it} you must not imagine that the mountains are anyway fine

or high; only curious basaltic piles.
Prague is only 5 hours distant by
rail but there is an hours delay on
the Austrian frontier; so that
you see one could easily go there
and back in a day. I think ~~that~~
that the index map of Down
is either at Probstow or in one
of the drawers of our book-case,
which, I do not remember. I hear
that the cost of pedestrian excursions
is reckoned by the Baron at one
Thaler (3 Shillings) a day - certain-
ly not more. Does not this seem
very cheap. Adolf says 2 shillings
but I can scarcely believe that.
However things are astonishingly
cheap here. I shall try and
write again as soon as possible.

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden.

April 2^d 1859.

My dear mamma

Your letter came this morning, which rather surprised me, as English letters come usually in the afternoon.

I laughed greatly at the idea of a book of travels in the "Saxon Switzerland"

It is somewhat the same as if you spoke of "travels in the Barony of Mourne;" would not that sound comical? Everybody who has been at Prague raves about its beauty and difference from towns in general. I was very glad of your account of the Allens and I hope to receive further intelligence soon. The family here consists of father mother and an only daughter. Miss Allen mentioned Clough, Dundrum and

Downpatrick so of course they are
the same. There are a pair of
Emersons shoes in good condition
lying somewhere about the house
and if you have not given them
away ~~of~~ keep and take care of
them. The pair I have here with
me will be invaluable, as the
Dresden shoemakers (and bootmakers)
have a decided partiality for
Crown paper or something very
like it. Uncle J. gets all his shoes
from Hamburg. There was a Miss
Ferrer (English) here to tea last
night; she is well acquainted with
the Co Down (!) and knew all about
the Hamiltons Beauclerks &c. That
is in her capacity as a governess.

There is a Miss Beauchamp here
very blond and plump, but I never
took the trouble to enquire if she is
from that part of the world.

In a walk the other day a butterfly
lit just before me, I recognised
him at once, but was so astounded
at seeing him that I made no
attempt to capture him. It was
the Camberwell Beauty or Vanessa
Antiope, you will easily find him
in the large blue butterfly book.
I also saw many of our common
ones. Squirrels are said to be
common everywhere, but I have
only seen one as yet. The steamers
are in full swing on the Elbe
now, but they seem to get very

little custom as yet; in summer
they are crowded. The ceilings in
all the houses here seem very taste-
-fully done, much more so
than with us. I had seen the
notice of the new line of steamers
before you had got the paper, but
don't let that stop your sen-
-ding such extracts. I saw a
very nice miniature Tom yesterday
but cats of any description are very
scarce here. I shall be glad to
get the envelopes you are sending
me, as mine are just out, and
the foreign ones are very flimsy

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden.

Monday. April 11.
1859.

My dear papa

On Saturday evening I received the long expected letter from uncle Frank which I was very glad to get.

I found it on my return from a rather long and solitary walk of 2½ hours to Briesnitz, a pretty little village on the Elbe, about 4 miles to the west. Yesterday after church I walked out with the whole family to a place called the Peterbourg, (so pronounced) about 2 miles off, and afterwards went on further with young J., but as he had on a pair of new boots, and my feet were in anything but proper walking condition, we did not go very far, but strolled about till dark. I am not quite square again

yet, but I feel myself much better
than on Saturday. There is something
for the Doersdeners to talk about
at last, viz. a young Frenchman
shot himself in the Grosser Garten
last week. He was found by
two ladies who were, as you may
imagine much shocked. He had
shot himself right through the
heart. Next - on Saturday evening
an Englishman - said to be a
courier - threw himself out of
one of the windows on the third
floor of the Victoria Hotel.

One of young G's friends was
going by, it is situated in a crow-
-ded thoroughfare, at the time, and
hearing something heavy fall on the
pavement behind, looked round, and

to his horror, saw the man lying there;
no blood was visible! Some accounts
say he was killed on the spot,
others that he was taken to a
hospital and lived many hours.

Is not that a good chapter of ac-
-cidents for one week? All

Dresden is on the move now, as
almost every family seems
to make it a point of honour
to change their abode on the first
of April, or rather in the first week.

Only think! the Seckendorffs were
never two years in the same house
so long as they have been in Dresden.

It is very disagreeable weather to-
day, blowing hard, and raining at
intervals. Uncle Jeffrey will be back
to-morrow or next day, and I shall

have a consultation with him im-
-mediately about, who is the best
classical master to be had here;
the invariable result of these
conferences ~~are~~^{is} that he invites
me and Dr Seiler in to tea,
and he undertakes to make out
who is the most suitable person
to be had. Were you aware
that it was through his means
that I got to the G's? I met
the younger Hugh's in the streets
the other day and he asked me
if it was true that Arthur
P's father was dead, I asked
where he had heard it, he said
Hogarth (the little Frenchman) had
told him. I said I did not believe
a word of it; the probability is
that

that this stupid Hogarth saw
in the Times the death of some
Prendergast in London, and
immediately jumped to the con-
-clusion it must be him.

I have not been at Hughes's
for an age, and every Sunday
say, well I really must go this
week; but somehow I always
find when Saturday comes round
that I have not been there.

On Thursday I am going to a
concert with young J. and the
Baytons. The price of all these
concerts is only 3^d. Does not that
seem very little, taking into
consideration that the music is
really first rate, and the orchestra
very large? The quantity of coffee

drunk in Sweden is something
prodigious, and though the
Saxon is certainly a beer drinking
animal, the amount of beer
drunk ^{here} is ~~not~~ really not so much.

One occasionally sees ^a fellow ~~a~~ a
little elevated with the beer, but
I have not seen one drunken
man since I came to Sweden.

There is a kind of brown frieze
shooting coat worn here, with a
green collar, and they seem very
much liked by all I have
asked about them, and I think
perhaps I may get one, they only
cost 9/, and are really serviceable

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden

4. p.m.

April 4. 1859.

My dear mamma,

I think I answered all your questions in my letter of Saturday, but I forgot to tell you to keep grand-mamma and aunt Nannie up to writing to me; thank uncle Frank for his letter, and tell him I shall answer as soon as possible. Jack's letter has, of course, not come, neither have I heard from Mary for some time.

I shall send you a plan of the floor, and of my room, as soon as we move. I have drawn it already but cannot finish it till we are there. I dare say it is quite possible a letter may come this

afternoon, but I shall not delay
this on chances. I find my wife -
- awake a great comfort and was
quite horrified yesterday on putting
on my black for church, to feel
how hard and heavy it felt.

On the day we move, - what -
- ever it may be - we all will
dine at the Pooles who have been
kind enough to ask us all to
dinner on that day, so as to
obviate the difficulty of ~~the~~ cooking.

There are five young ladies all under
23 and there is not one of them
but you would take for more
than 23! This, I hear is the case
universally with the Russians, and
it is the most amusing thing

to hear the Germans guessing the ages
of English ladies, setting down
"elderly young ladies" of two and
thirty as under 25. One in particular
a Miss Young (somewhat a la Miss
Caheny) was supposed to be about
22 and the lady in question is
certainly over 30. We have got a
fat young officer with spectacles
in the riding school now; I positively
did not think that even a fellow
who had never seen a horse
could be so awkward - clutched at
the saddle in turning in the corners
and such like things; he has only
been there 2 mornings and has got
one fall already. Now there are
seldom more than 3 there of a
morning, which seems rather odd.

I find that filling $2\frac{1}{2}$ sheets of
this paper at one stretch is
rather hard work, particularly
as I had been writing French
exercises for half an hour
previously. Generally I write my
letters in pieces - a sheet or so
at a time, but this week I
have to pack up my traps
which takes a little time away.

Would you believe it, I got all
my books packed in 20 minutes
this morning? Indeed I think
in less.

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden

April 6. 1889

My dear papa

I have just received a letter from uncle Willy of the 2nd, I had expected one from you, but I suppose it will come tomorrow. I have just seen uncle Jeffrey who has come back from Hamburg all right, and Mrs O'Freer and Miss Breusser will be here tomorrow, per midday train. We are still here in Räcknitzstrasse and as at present arranged are to move on Saturday, but I do not think it is by any means certain yet, however it is all the same to me.

I am going to stop my riding and gymnastics for a few days to allow time for me to get round again for I am not up to much violent exercise. Uncle Jeffrey says that he

(See what

(see what comes of beginning a letter without
looking at the sheet) thinks the best
way about the drawing will be to
wait till I go on this tour which
will be in about a fortnight, and
and that when I come back I can
set regularly to work at the classics
I have again got a fearful headache
- in fact I have never been without one
for the last 10 days, and I shall go
to Dr Seiler again tomorrow; the
only thing I find to keep it off is
staying in the open air, but that is
not always practicable. I was down
on the new Quay for the first time
this evening and found it much better
than I had expected it a small
railway runs along it and much im-
proves it, there was some activity going
on in loading and unloading barges
that is German activity.

I suspect that when I begin the classics
I shall want a Latin-German &
German-Latin as a double look-
-ing out would be rather a long
business. Thursday - To day is most
splendid weather and a large part
of the furniture has been moved
into the new house, & we are to
follow with the remainder on
Saturday morning. I took a long
walk of about 7 miles this morning
beginning at 7.30 and have
almost cured my headache at 11
we had a dinner luncheon as we
are going to dine with the Poles
at 5 o'clock. I am now going out
to the G. G. to meet uncles Jeffrey
aunt M. and (probably) Mrs O'Freer
and I shall try and finish this to night.

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Friday. I

Friday. I saw uncle Jeffrey and aunt
M. in the G. G. yesterday, but Mrs
O'Ferris was tired with her journey
and had stayed at home, Miss
Pruesser had gone out at once to
Lockwitz. Uncle J. and aunt M.

had a rather tiresome journey
to and from Hamburg, but on
the whole seem to ~~to~~ have fared
pretty well. I am finishing this
in a great hurry so as to get
it in before dinner, time seems
to vanish here in the most un-
accountable manner.

Francis E. Prudergast.