

Dresden

April 1<sup>st</sup> 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<sup>d</sup>.

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 29<sup>th</sup> which came this morning was very welcome as I had not had a letter for 6 days.

It is said that the Jaxon Switzerland can be seen in 2 days, but I doubt <sup>it</sup> 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<sup>d</sup> 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 Doers 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~~<sup>is</sup> 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<sup>d</sup>. 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 <sup>here</sup> is ~~not~~ really not so much.

One occasionally sees <sup>a</sup> fellow 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

3

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.