

Letters from Francis Ensor Prendergast to his parents

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Dramatis personae; sources include the Dresden directories as found in <https://adressbuecher.sachsendigital.de/suchergebnisse/adressbuch/Book/list/dresden/1859/>

Allen, widow and daughter of Alexander (possibly the linguist from Hackney/London, 1814-1842), Räcknitzstr. 6. II, Dresden

Aufrère, Caroline née Wehrtmann, sister to Margaret Prendergast, born 28.10.1809 in St. Petersburg, lives with her husband George Anthony in Bowness-on-Windermere

Ayer, Pierre, from Bulle/Fribourg/Switzerland, teacher of French in Dresden, Badergasse 1. I., moves to Johannisgasse 14. I.

"Ayez": French word for "Have!"; recte Ayer - pronounced equally, the last letter being mute

Berchem see Van Berchem

"Betten" see Betton

Betton, Thomas Forrest, 29.07.1809-21.05.1875, Germantown, Philadelphia PA, Dr. med., chemist, author of scientific textbooks and articles

- (Sarah) Elizabeth née Logan, 04.11.1812-21.03.1859, from a Quaker background, wife of Thomas, married 01.10.1833

- Samuel Logan 10.08.1842-1915, son of Thomas and Elizabeth

Boyton, Mary Elizabeth née Montgomery, 1812-1883, Donegal/Ireland, sister of Captain Montgomery, widow of Rev. Charles Boyton (1799-1844, Rector of Letterkenny, staunch Protestant, married 1835)

- William Charles 1838-1904, "young Boyton", her son; leaves Dresden about May 1859 for Cambridge, eventually "Canon of St. Patrick's, Dublin, Rector of Templemare" (Church of Ireland, i.e. Protestant)

Burnaby, Frederick Gustavus 1842-1885, from Bedford, to become a military "adventurist" and writer, see Wikipedia

Comte, Jacques Jules, "professor of Latin and French language and literature" (no institution specified), Margarethengasse 4. I., Dresden, FEP's French master until June 1859

Cuthbert, perhaps ?Lucy Maria née Savage, born 1828 or 1825 in London, wife of David (?Kemlow) Cuthbert born 1822 or ca1819 Sussex; censused in Ryde 1861; relationship unknown

Dale, Henry, Chaplain of the English congregation, Lüttichaustr. 26. I., Dresden, former rector of Wilby, Northamptonshire

Ensell, presumably FEP's former teacher from a dynasty of Protestant clergymen in Ireland

Ensor, see below

Etlinger/Edlinger, probably Johann Ernst, son of a German merchant and his Italian wife in Odessa, studies Architectural Engineering at the Polytechnic

Forbes, Adele and Carol, Waisenhausstr. 33. I., Dresden; "friends of Uncle Jeffry"; at the same address Francis Forbes, British envoy, recently widowed

"Grandmamma": Esther Ensor née Weld 1783-1874

Hogarth, TODO; small in body size, sportive, raised in Paris, Times-reader, Anglican church-goer, in Dresden at Hughes' from September 1858; father dead

Hübner, Dr. Johann Gottlieb, FEP's Latin master, teacher at the private school "Vitzthumsches Gymnasium", living Dippoldiswaldaergasse 2. III.; both addresses are in Jeffry's immediate neighbourhood

Hughes, Prof. George Ayling 1797-1866, born in Manchester of a German mother; since 1832 teacher of English at the Polytechnic

- Catharine Friederike Bertha née Scholz, German wife of George A., together running a large boarding house at Marienstraße 4 II, Dresden
- Henry ca1836-1864, son of George A. and Catharine, FEP's German master "young Hughes", teacher of English at the Polytechnic, interpreter, translator, married since 1857, Zwingerstraße 1. III.
- Charlotte Regina Louise née Schlick, ca1831-1898, Henry's German wife, often seen at her in-laws (working in the household?)

Irwin, Charles King, aunt Elizabeth's husband, rector of the Parish Church in Magherafelt (Ulster)

- John King
- Mary (their daughter-in-law?), mentioned as likeness to Anna Amanda v. Seckendorff, the latter however "by no means so good looking"

Kriebel, Anton Ludwig (or Ludwig Anton Maria), 1823-1890, painter, Elbberg 5. III., Dresden

Leacock, aunt: Martha Georgina Vaughan née Weld, ca1793-22.10.1872, sister of FEP's grandmother Esther Ensor née Weld

- Charles Edward Baker: 23.01.1841(Ryde,Wight)-12.03.1897(Florence), grandson (from a previous marriage) of Martha's late husband; artillerist, 1879 major, 1886 lieutenant colonel.

Montgomery, Robert George, 1814-1900, "of Convoy House", retired captain, High Sherrif in Donegal, Mrs. Boyton's brother

Nauwerk/Nauwerck, Carl Gustav, Lüttichaustraße 26. III, Dresden, Bacc. jur., now professional teacher; FEP's master of German

Nicolai, Hermann Georg, 1811-1881, professor of architecture at the academy of fine arts, Dresden, living Waisenhausstr. 18b. pt.

"Nostwitz": Nostitz, large influential family of Saxon nobility; Ludwig Ferdinand August Graf von Nostitz-Rieneck, divorced husband of Olga née Poël *1835, see Poël

Parseval, Fanny von, née countess O'Hegarty, born in Salzburg to a family of close friends of the Prendergasts, widow of a Bavarian general major, living Ottostraße 4 III, Munich.

"Poole": Poël

Poël/Poel, pronounced approximately analogous to "poet":

- Anna née von Stieglitz, Reitbahnstr. 6. I., Dresden; daughter of Ludwig von Stieglitz, widow of Piter Poël (1798-1850), both German-born super-rich bankers in Russia; Piter being of Dutch background.
- her 8 children live with her, including the divorced countess Olga von Nostitz; <http://www.familiepoel.de/index.php/de/ii-linie.html>

Prendergast, see below

Preußner, Gustav Ludwig 13.03.1796-09.10.1860, merchant in Leipzig until 1856, then retired to Lockwitz near Dresden with his second wife Emma née von Gutschmid and their unmarried children

- Annette jr. 13.01.1826-10.07.1889, "Miss Preusser", Gustav's daughter from his first marriage with aunt Margaret's half-sister Annette sr. née Wehrtmann (24.12.1802-21.01.1826)
- Luise 08.08.1837-26.10.1912, daughter of Gustav and Emma

Puckle, Emily Hale, 1821-1891, lodger at Seckendorffs, aspiring painter from England, in the wider network of aunt Margaret via Aufrères and Annette Preußner

Scheibe, Prof. Dr. Carl Friedrich 1812-1869, FEP's master of Classical Greek, teacher at Vitzthumsches Gymnasium
 Seckendorff(-Gudent)/Seckendorf (- as for titling, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freiherr>):
 - Robert 1801-1882, "the Baron", retired captain, chemist, bankrupted factory owner (son of Gustav Anton and Mary E. née Lechler from Philadelphia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Anton_von_Seckendorff)
 - Isidore Adolfine née von Heldreich 15.07.1812-1891, his second wife, "the Baroness"; their children:
 -- Anna Amanda 1837-1919, dies unmarried in Dresden
 -- (Gustav) Adolf 1840-after1883, "Young S.", later a civil engineer in Kharkiv (Ukraine) and St. Petersburg
 -- Arthur 1845-1886, later a forestry scientist of some renown in Austria
 -- Bertha 1847-
 -- Oscar 1849-
 -- Robert jr. 1850-after1897, later a merchant in Kharkiv (Ukraine), Moscow, Dresden, Berlin; five or more children
 Sparkman/n, William Erwin/Ervine (probably), son of a rice planter from Georgetown NC, conjectured school student of Dr. Hübner, to study at the Polytechnic in 1860/1861
 Staberoh, Ernst Wilhelm, 1818-1882, fencing master, formerly of the Saxon army, Weiseritzstraße 17. pt., Dresden
 Seiler, Friedrich Hugo, 1821-1897, Dr. med., Seestraße 21.II, Dresden; doctor at the Deaconesses' Institution
 Simpson, son of a London banker, arrives at Hughes's from England on Jan. 12, 1859, not at the Polytechnic; "I do not like at all"
 Simpson, another young Englishman, who has been living with a German family in Dresden for several months until the end of January 1859
 Stiffel, Camillo, born in Odessa to a family of German merchants, 1858-62 student Mechanical Technology at the Polytechnic; https://tu-dresden.de/ua/dokumentationen/alumni/liste-der-studierenden-von-technischer/alumni_az/S
 "Stiffle": Stiffel
 Thompson, James and Jane, Räcknitzstr. 4. I., Dresden; of independent means, from Carrickfergus near Belfast
 Van Berchem, perhaps (Charles-)Alexandre (Berthout) 1836-1872, from a Protestant family exiled to Geneva in 1765, thus of French mother tongue; in Bern German is spoken, though not exactly like in Dresden
 White, John Trumbull *1809, from Connecticut, USA; temporarily in Saxony; <http://dayfamilytree.ca/getperson.php?personID=I472672&tree=ddamd>
 - his wife Sarah Grace née Carroll 1821(New York)-1885 (12 children, the 11th born 12.01.1859 in Dresden, #12 will be 08.06.1860 in "Switzerland")
 - their eldest daughter Emily Carroll 1840(New York)-1915, marries 1866 Julius Overbury from Wiltshire, England, who moves with her to NY/NJ
 Whittle, couple (married ca. 1843) of independent means, since 1856 living Lüttichaustr. 14, amateur travel writers, culture freaks, friends of the Prendergasts; bought Castle Syrgenstein near the Bodensee in 1858
 - Catharine née Taylor 1810(Norwich)-1883(Syrgenstein), stays in Dresden until May 1859
 - James, husband of Catherine, published "Hunting in a German Forest" in 1850, is no longer in Dresden when FEP arrives

Some places and streets:

Carolastraße: in Dresden, where Jeffry and Margaret Prendergast live at the joint second floors of nos. 2 and 3.

Großer Garten: large park outside Dresden, reached from the Prendergast domiciles by 1.5 km footway to the east, stretching for another 2 km.

Lockwitz: village 9 km southeast of Dresden, around a large manor house ("Schloss") owned and inhabited by Gustav Preußner and family since his retirement in 1856 (- previously by his brother and other relatives).

Magherafelt: in Northern Ireland, county Derry; home of family Irwin, Charles King Irwin being rector of the Parish Church and governor of the Charity School

Rostrevor: in Northern Ireland, county Down, where uncle Charles Ensor owns land, and presumably his wife and legitimate children live. The directory only mentions an "Ensor, Mrs., Riverside" (remember that Charles is a "travelling man") and an "Irwin, Robert, Quay House".

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{Vol. 1, "msa"}

{Title page by FEP's mother Caroline} Bundle No 1 From December 22d 1858 To January 22d 1859

{Pencil annotation by JPP, referring to his wife} Mamma's hand! JPP 6 April 1875

{#1. Leave home (3 Tower Terrace, Sandymount, C. Dublin) for Dresden. Dec. 22 }

Holyhead Train

Wednesday

{Pencil annotation} (Decr. 22.d 1858. JPP)

My dear papa

I arrived at Holyhead after a rough passage of 5 hours. I was sick but on the whole it was not disagreeable. I am writing this in the Train on the way to the station and will Post it when I get there. There were only 2 in the cabin besides myself.

F.E.P.

I forget the day of the month

{#2. Visit Aunt Leacock at Lerkillen, near Ryde, Isle of Wight. Pondwell, Ryde. 24. Dec. }

Pondwell

Friday Dec. 24. 1858.

My dear mamma

I am writing this in the dining room while Mr. Deersly is paying a visit to uncle Charles. I do not think that aunt Leacock's eyes are any worse than when we were at Sandown. Aunt Cuthbert is very well lively and active. The boys and uncle Charles are very well. Charly is more than

half an inch taller than I am. Georgy is certainly grown but keeps his old proportions so exactly that its hard to see any difference. Aunt L. says she is going to take me to see the Deerslys and Leacocks to day, which I am very glad of. She say that she is going to have a party on Wednesday and that I must stay for it but I do not know how I can manage it, ask papa what he thinks. I have not been out yet, but whenever I am done writing I will go out with the boys. It is a lovely morning and the glass is rising which is a decided comfot. We 3 youngsters and aunt C. played Casino last night till 11 oclock and I think she would have played all night if she could. I have yet a very uncomfotable room, and aunt L. has just shown me over the house, I had no idea it was so large.

My expenses from Holyhead to this were just one pound 10/ and 8d. I could have booked through from London to Ryde and saved about 2/ and a great deal of trouble, but I did not find it out till I got here

Francis E. Prendergast

{Uncle Charles and his two sons seem to be on a longer visit here.

Georgy Ensor: born 1845; on his photo in FEP's photo album as an adult, he seems still to be abnormally small; to camouflage this fact slightly, he is depicted sitting besides his standing wife. As we will read, his popularity and fitness as a walker are undiminished.}

{#3. Leave Brussels and Uncle William (who is on a visit to Lord Charles Pelham Clinton there) for Dresden. - Cologne. Jany. 3d. }
Aix la Chapelle and Cologne Railway
Monday Jan. 3d 1859

My dear papa,

I left Brussels this morning and got into a carriage full of foreingers. I thought I should not have to change carriages but at verviers they bawled out something about "changez" and on asking a porter he said we changed, and having got out the guard said (in German) that we waited for some time. There had been an Englishman in the carriage from Louvain who seemed to know even less of the languages than myself, we kept near one another and got into the same carriage, some talk ensued and he said he was going to Corfu. I think, and thought before he told me his destination, that he looked like a government official. He seemed to be in considerable doubt how he was to get there! I lent him my Bradshaw for which he was much obliged.

Our Passports were taken from us at the last station by a Prussian soldier, I asked my fellow traveller if he knew when we should get them back but he said he had not the least idea. The country about here is very like England, in everything except the people. We have just passed Aix where I got back my passport without any trouble at the Bureau de Passports.

I find I can understand the French pretty well but the German always comes into my head when I want to speak. uncle W. got me some chocolate

sticks, and two of Sir W Scotts novels before I left Brussels so I am well provided with food for mind and body. There are an immense lot of tunnels about here. None in Belgium of course. I shall finish this at Cologne Every place in these countries is so well warmed that one never feels the cold, which indeed, as yet, has not been greater than in Ireland. The guard of this train, who is a remarkably civil person and speaks English walks along the foot-board of the carriages while the train is at full speed collecting tickets &c.

Hotel de Belle Vue Cologne. Arrived all right, every body seems to speak English.

If the post does not go out immediately I will write more

F. E. P.

The room I have got is a capital one large and lofty. The examination of the baggage at the station was a mere farce, just opening and shutting the tanks, and when they were done carefully fastening them up again.

{Lord Charles Pelham Clinton: an English Conservative politician and landowner, a frequent lucrative client of the Prendergasts as land agents and lawyers concerning possessions in the County of Cork, Ireland.}

{#4. On the road to Dresden. Railroad near Aix la Chapelle. January 3d. }
In the Train near Aix. Monday Jan. 3. 1859

My dear uncle W

I had the carriage full of foreigners as far as Louvain, from that I had one person whom I immediately set down as a British government official. He seemed to know even less of the languages than I do. at Verviers we had to change carriages and wait half an hour. He got into the carriage with me and some talk ensued. He said he was going to Corfu via Dresden and Trieste but did not seem to know much about it. I lent him my Bradshaw for which he was much obliged. At some station near Aix our passports were taken from us but at Aix the guard pointed out the Bureau des Passports where I got it without any trouble on presenting the cover. While waiting in the carriage a waiter brought round some buns, when he was gone my companion said he was very hungry but had nothing but English money & did not understand foreign money!!! I offered him 2 sticks of chocolate which I had not eaten and which he was very glad to get. The country about here is very like England. The guard who is a remarkably civil person and speaks English, walks along the foot board outside while the train is at full speed collecting the tickets &c. I intend to finish this at Cologne. Hotel de Belle vue Cologne arrived here all right everybody seems to speak English. The examination of the baggage was a mere farce, just opening and shutting the trunks. I will write more if I hav time. F. E. P.

A Waiter has just brought me the Hotel Book to sign. I have ordered mutton cutlets and potatoes, the last word he did not understand however i knew the german. The bed room I have got is large and about 15 feet

high. The waiter when I asked for dinner mentioned "bifstekes" but I thought the cutlets preferable. This room overlooks the Rhine but I shall not see much of it. I have written a letter to Tower Terrace and will have it posted with this. In this room I have got a large engraving two large pier glasses a sofa and a bed, with a feather bed coverlet.

Your affectionate nephew

Francis E. Prendergast

We had talked over all these little matters before hand

{The last sentence is written on the margin, the first word not clearly legible. It seems to be written by the recipient William Paul Prendergast in Brussels, as a message to his brother JPP, to whom he forwards the letter; "before hand" means: at their meeting in Brussels. William is an experienced traveller.

Bradshaw: Tourist guides concentrating on railway lines and timetables.}

{#5. In th train. Railway. Near Leipzig January 4th }
Cologne & Leipsic train
8.30 a.m. Jan 4 1858. (Tuesday)

My dear papa

I am writing this in a 2d class carriage which is exactly the same as 1st class in England, padded, divisions of the seats, hat slengs, umberella racks, blinds, lamps, and everything the same as 1st class except hot water. On getting in they ask you "rauchen Sie"? (do you smoke?) if you reply "nein" they put you in a carriage where smoking is not allowed. My Hotel bill last night was about 10/. I do not know how much my ticket (_to Dresden_) cost, but I know I gave 3 £ and got back about 5/. The luggage cost about 9/ or 10/. I was put into a carriage where there was one person who turned out to be the Englishman I met yesterday. He is going the whole way to Dresden to day and will arrive in the middle of the night. At the Hotel de Belle Vue everything was good except the grub. Perhaps however this was caused by there desire to have it "a l'Anglaise". At the first station there got in a young German and his wife, who chatter German at a rate that would throw Albert Smith into the shade, however they speak distinctly & I can make a pretty good guess at what they say. The lady (_qu_?) asked me some question which I did not understand. I replied in German that I did not understand and I hear them talking about the "Englander".

12.45. Just passed Minden, and I have also just finished 2 rolls which I put in my pocket this morning and 3 or 4 sticks of chocolate. I have fairly got into Germany, at the stations you hear nothing but German. The whistles here on this railway are terrific lasting about 2 minutes and of the most piercing kind.

A young Austrian-looking couple have just got into the carriage who speak German in the most delightful clear sweet tones. The lady is about 18 and

is the only lady I have seen as yet in Germany. The young man is rather dandy in dress black kids tight boots &c. The country is very uninteresting, but every now and again one comes on a pretty bit, I have seen some hills but nothing in the shape of mountains as yet

4.45 p. m. Hotel de Bavière
Leipsic

I arrived here not without some trouble as I had to get a cab for myself at the station and use more German than I ever did before. I have only seen one waiter here who speaks English and I have ordered some coffee and cutlets.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"1858": recte 1859, of course - typical error in January. We will have more of this.}

{#6. Arrival at Dresden. Uncle Jeffry meets me. W. Dresden January 5th }
In the Leipsic and Dresden Train 11 am
Wednesday Jan 5. 1859

My dear papa

I had some difficulty in getting started this morning as the waiter did not speak English. However I got to the station just in time, in going from the cab to the train I got a fall (there was ice & snow) but got up so quickly as to astonish the bystanders. It is so cold that the breath freezes on the inside of the window, but strange to say it does not feel cold, I suppose this is from the absence of wind. I observe that nobody ever stands still but either walks up and down or keeps stamping. Almost everybody seems to speak a little English, but still it is very little.

Dresden 12.12 at professor Hughes.

I found uncle Jeffry at the station and We drove here direct The post goes out almost immediately so I shall finish and write more to morrow or next day.

Francis E. Prendergast

{#7. Placed at Professor Hughes's boarding house. Dresden. Jany. 7th }
4 Marien Strasse Dresden.
Friday. Jan. 7 1859.

My dear mamma,

On arriving here on Wednesday I was met by uncle Jeffry who brought me here and introduced me to Mr. & Mrs. Hughes. I stayed for their dinner at one, and then waited for uncle Jeffry who came for me at 4 and took me home to dine with him; next morning I breakfasted here, and uncle Jeffry

came at 12 oclock and took me to see Mrs. Whittle, by the way, on arriving on Wednesday I found an invitation waiting for me to go to a ball! It came through Mrs. Whittle and was a mixed party of English and Germans. I of course declined as it was the first night and I wanted to be at 2 Carola Strasse. I heard from Mrs. Whittle that it was a very pleasant party and that a young Miss Allen who is very fond of Irishmen (!) had been expecting to meet me there for the last fortnight! however I dare say I shall get enough of it as I hear of nothing but balls public and private. After seeing Mrs. Whittle, uncle J. took me to his house where we found Francisca, she is a little girl of 16 not remarkable for anything neither pretty nor the reverse, she does not speak English. We then all went and walked in the Grosze-Garten and saw the Queen Dowager, but kept out of her way to avoid trouble. We then went home, dined and went to the Opera, which begins at 6 and ends at 8.30 Yesterday was a Great holiday (12th day) and no business could be done, which was the cause of all this going about. I received your letter yesterday at 3. It is snowing hard this morning. I do not think I shall write again for a few days so that I may see how things go on My room is very large well furnished and comfortable.

Francis E Prendergast.

{The names Hughes and Whittle seem to be familiar to the Dubliners from their correspondence with Jeffry.

The same applies to Francisca, who seems to be the Prendergasts' guest, thus a friend from abroad. Since she is German, I guess she is the daughter of close friends from their time at Hamburg, similarly to Frederika Meyer (1805-1886).

"I wanted to be at 2 Carola Strasse": i.e. at uncle Jeffry's home.}

{#8. Life at Professor Hughes's. Dresden Jany. 7. }
4 Marien Strasse Dresden.
Friday Jan. 7. 1859.

My dear papa,

You will find an account of my proceedings with uncle Jeffry in mammas, and I intend to give you some account of this household in this. We are on the 2d floor like uncle J. The breakfast is on the table and may be had at any hour from 8 till 10. Mr. & Mrs. are generally there at about 8.30 she presides and talks, while the professor smokes and reads the newspapers. The breakfast consists of coffee rolls & butter, everyone helping themselves. We then lounge and talk about the room for 10 minutes or so and then go to our rooms. The dinner is at one and is very much like an English dinner with the exception of the dishes being handed round. At 8.30 there is a supper of cold meat &c. This meal I have not been at yet, you will see how that happens from mammas letter. I am to get my first lesson in german from young Hughes at 11. to day. Yesterday was a grand holiday so nothing could be done. As to my companions, there is a Mr. Smith who was here with Arthur, he seems good sort of fellow - nothing remarkable in any respect. He is waiting for his commission which

he expects in a month or two. Then there is a little fellow of the name of Hogarth more French than English. Then there is a Russian of the name of Stiffle, he is the fatest and most burly looking fellow of his age I ever saw. Then there is a fellow called Etlinger who looks like a Frenchman. Then there is a Swiss who speaks nothing but French and German, all the others speak more or less English. Hogarth seems a nice sort of fellow, but I have not seen much of him, or indeed of any of them.

Francis E. Prendergast

{"Smith who was here with Arthur": Arthur Dalrymple Prendergast has stayed at the same boarding house earlier, probably in 1858.

Commission of Mr. Smith: for the British military, "the Rifles", as we will learn later.

"Etlinger who looks like a Frenchman": his mother is of Italian background, his father German.}

{"Orphaned leaf", half of the usual folded paper, torn off to save weight. The addressee must be JPP. Therefore we assume that it is a P.S. to the letter of 07.01.1859.}

I have just got in my possession at present £ 7,,15. I got £ 2,,10 from uncle W. which you sent for the coat (which is to be got to day, as well as some boots) and they gave me £ 1 at Woodside, so that would leave £ 4.5 out of the £ 17.. you gave me, making my travelling expences from London (including everything) £ 12,,15,, uncle Jeffry says he thinks that seems very moderate, considering the weight of my baggage which had to be paid heavily for. I should like all money transactions to be managed through him.

I had heard a great deal about aunt Margaret, but certainly I did not expect her such a magnificent woman. Their house appears to me to be as comfortable as any floor house can well be. I am to dine with them again on Sunday

{Obviously FEP has met Jeffry earlier, but not Margaret. JPP and his brothers know the couple from many visits in younger days. FEP often invokes Jeffry, whose word seems to be respected by the whole family.

"magnificent": beyond being good-looking (in spite of her obesity and chronic illness), Margaret is elegant, stylish, cultivated, ladylike, self-conscious, generous, charitable, religious and at times sentimental, a lover of cute dogs. She is strongly attached to her Wehrtmann relatives, notably including her autistic brother John. Her ostentatiously anti-stylish famous friend Mathilde Arnemann holds her in high esteem.

"floor house": The couple has rented only the second floor (third storey by USA counting), but joint of two adjacent houses, Carolastraße 2 and 3, thus offering more space than an average villa. The corresponding amount

of valuable furniture will become a problem when Jeffry moves to Bath as a widower.}

{#9. Further particulars. Dresden, Jany. 10th. }
Dresden Jan. 10. 1858 {- the last digit cancelled out and corrected to "9?" by a different writer, apparently much later, judging from the question mark}

My dear mamma,

You will find an account of my proceedings in papa's letter and I will try to give you a little household news in this. I can not give you the exact dimensions of my room as I do not know where my measure is, but it is about 15 feet by 17, very lofty, like all the German rooms, there is a spring sofa, 5 spring chairs, a bureau-chest-of-drawers, a shut-up washing stand apparatus, two tables, a bed, a large looking glass and last, but not least, the stove, it is some thing like this

{A drawing of the stove, dwarfing a door and a chair. Six tiers, the bottom one marked "A" etc.}

The fire is put in at A and the hot air passes up the flue in the manner indicated by the arrows and passes out at G. It is made of some kind of earthenware - not porcelain, the stoves of which are totally different. Its height is about 10 feet.

Francis E. Prendergast

{#10. Society at Uncle Jeffry's, &c Dresden Jany. 10. }
Monday Jan. 10. 1858 {corrected to "9?" as in the previous letter; if there were any doubt that 1859 is correct it would be removed by the given weekday.}
Dresden.

My dear papa

I received your letter of the 7th this evening - the one sent by the 7.30 p.m. boat. Your former one I received in the morning. Yesterday (Sunday) I went to church with Smith and Hogarth. I suppose the church would aggravate you, not being built with the slightest attempt at conformance with the rules of architecture, however it is very well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended and in my opinion far from ugly. They have an organ, and the congregation is as large as that of Sandymount. Afterwards I went and lunched with uncle J. and then all four - Francisca being one of the party, went to the Grosser-Garten. I tried to talk a little German to Francisca, but I did not get beyond a few sentences. In the morning, Dr. Somebody came in and we had a long talk about money & minerals &c, the conversation was most curious, English and German words being used indiscriminately. This morning I went with Hogarth to his gymnastic place, and found it very good, the proprietor only takes pupils one at a time, - for an hour - he speaks nothing but German and a few words of French, so that it will be a good

German lesson for me, I agreed to take 10 lessons, half an hour each time of fencing, and the other half gymnastics, he charges ½ a thaler (1/6) a lesson so that the 10 will be 15/, not a very heavy charge that, is it? After dinner Smith, Hogarth and I went down to the Zwinger to Skate. I having previously worn my skates in my room for an hour, according to Smiths advice, you pay one groschen (a penny farthing) to go on the ice, and give another to the man for fastening on your skates. Smith helped me as much as he could and after some time I was able to stand by myself, and afterwards went about after a fashion with Smith and Hogarth on each side of me. I only got 2 falls - neither of them of the least consequence - in one of them I tumbled backwards, and in the other was run down by a lady who was performing some wonderful feats going backwards &c Smith was with me and was knocked down also, as well as half a dozen others, the only damage done was the amount of breath spent in laughing. I am reported to have got on very well, Smiths says that all his pupils have got on wonderfully well!! He belongs to some English skating club and do all sorts of queer things on the ice, jumping, going backwards, waltzing, &c. Hogarth has only been on the ice 6 or 7 times and he can skate very fairly. I have a German lesson from young Hughes every morning for an hour, but I have not done much with him yet. I had always thought aunt Margaret was an invalid and though she looks like one in the house, she walks at least 3 miles in the Grosser-Garten every day. It is a very nice place consisting of one long avenue nearly 2 miles long, not unlike the Phoenix park in some respects. There is a very fine pond in it just the proper size for skating, it is always crowded with ladies and the crack skaters, the beaut mond of Dresden looking on.

The great objection to the gardens is, that you are likely to meet the queen dowager, and have to stand aside with your hat off which is anything but agreeable. I have got a large, soft, warm coat, which uncle Jeffry chose for me. I find it very easy to keep all except my hands warm. I have tried 2 pair of gloves and everything I can think of, but without much success. Keeping them in the pockets or up the sleeves is the way most people do, but that is so very awkward and uncomfortable.

The supper at 8.30 p.m. is composed of Tea, coffee, bread, meat of several kinds and wine. The professor smokes a cigar at breakfast some at dinner and several at supper, all the fellows smoke except Stiffle - one of the Russians, the other, Etlinger, who comes from Odessa, smokes only a few paper cigarettes. The rest seem never to miss an opportunity of smoking but as the tobacco is good it is not disagreeable.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Dr. Somebody": probably Dr. F. Hugo Seiler.

Church: Alte Reformierte Kirche, a baroque church originally built for the Huguenot Reformed congregation, now used by several denominations, each with its own clergyman. Note that Jeffry and Margaret do not join FEP; if they attend services at all, they may prefer the German Reformed denomination to which Margaret has been confirmed, although the Anglican chaplain Rev. Henry Dale is a friend of the family, as we will see.

The fencing and gymnastic master is Ernst Wilhelm Staberoh, formerly of the Saxon army.

Phoenix Park: in Dublin, of course, and even larger than Großer Garten.}

{#11. D.o and Evening party at Mr. Dale's. Jany. 14 }
Dresden Friday Jan 14 1858 {again the last digit corrected to "9" by a different writer, this time without question mark.}

My dear mamma

I have just (4 p.m.) come in from two hours skating and found your letter. I have been on the ice for two hours, going about nearly the whole time and skating after a fashion. I did not get a single fall and do not expect to get any or many more. It is only the 3d time I have been on the ice

My cough and cold are much better though not quite well yet. As to my going to the theatre on Sunday there is not the least fear of it and in fact I do not care for it, it is so very stupid here

I think I battered up Mrs. Munt's sister very creditably and I am glad to find aunt C. thinks so too. There is a young married Hughes who gives me lessons in German he and his wife are at every meal except breakfast, there are several other sons and daughters, none except him here. I get plenty of exercise here and am in capital condition. It is nearly a straight line from this to Carola Str. and takes about 7 minutes (or less) to get there. I can find my way about Dresden pretty well already, and am just going to leave an answer to the Dale's invitation and I shall have to hunt for the house.

F. E. Prendergast.

{Hughes: the young couple has a flat of its own in Zwingerstraße, but spends most of its day at the lodging house, Henry giving lessons to some of the inhabitants. The whole family are of German mother tongue.}

Dresden.
Friday Jan. 14. 1859.

My dear papa,

I am expecting a letter from you to day or to morrow, so shall not close this before Saturday or Sunday. I was at uncle J's last night, Dr. Seiler, Prof. Nicolai, and some one else were there. Prof Nicolai promised to make inquiries about a drawing master, there are plenty here, but uncle J. is very anxious that I should get the best. Prof. Nicolai says that the foundation of all drawing is the correct delineation of the human figure, and that the person who can do this can do everything. The conversation was entirely German so it was a good exercise for me, trying to make out what they said. I had a letter from uncle Joe the day before yesterday, and I have written to him, but have not posted it yet.

Yesterday evening a note was handed in to me, which proved to be an invitation from Mr. & Mrs. Dale to an evening party on Thursday next. I had not the least idea who they were, never having heard of them in my life, uncle Joe says it is the English clergyman, and aunt Margaret suggests that it was intended for Arthur. I shall of course go as the invitation was for Mr. Prendergast, and I hear that there is likely to be dancing. There were also invitations for Smith & Etlinger, so I suppose I shall hear more from them to day the thermometer is about 1 degree above the freezing point, which is considered quite temperate. When one first goes out on a very cold day - say 7 degrees below freezing point, you do not at first notice anything unusual, on account of the absence of wind, but presently you find your fingers getting very cold, and the tips of your ears getting a very queer feel, and then getting warm again is out of the question. However when there is no wind it is not disagreeable. If there is any wind, nothing will keep one warm. Mr. Simpson arrived on Wednesday, he seems just the same as the other Englishmen viz. nothing whatsoever remarkable about him. The Swiss, van Berchem, seems a good sort of fellow, though without much apparent breeding; his father was a Flemish count. The Russian, Etlinger (and indeed the other Stiffle) seems a nice sort of fellow, but I have not had much to say to either of them. The Swiss plays the pianoforte unusually well, and generally plays for an hour or so after supper, and the other evening he played a Russian melody while Etlinger sang, it was very melancholy, but he says that they are all the same.

I am afraid that there will be more English than German spoken now as there are 4 Englishmen, and the 2 Russians always speak English. The Professor enforces German at meals, but the moment he is gone, English is the language. The Russians both speak it perfectly.

I think I have told you before that I have got a gymnastic school already and have half an hour of fencing and another of gymnastics twice a week. 2 others of this house go to it also. I cannot tell you which of my looks uncle J likes best. I have not got the brass compasses. There is very little time for working here in fact it is just as Mr. E. told me that I would not be able to work near so much as in Ireland.

Francis E. Prendergast.

□ over

I send this without stamping it as uncle J says it is just the same. Tell me if it is so.

{Arthur: Arthur Dalrymple Prendergast, who must have visited and left Dresden previously, probably in 1858, staying at the same boarding house, where the invitation "was handed" to FEP.

degrees above/below freezing point: on the Réaumur scale.

"they are all the same": meaning Russian folk songs, according to young Johann Ernst Etlinger, who is of German and Italian background.

The Stiffel family of merchants has lived in Odessa for three generations, but still feels strongly German. Learning English and joining "English clubs" has become very fashionable among the upper class in Russian cities, besides being prerequisite for the immensely lucrative trade with Britain and the USA. Aunt Margaret's father Johann Michael Friedrich Wehrtmann (1759-1830) had been an ambitious member of such a club in St. Petersburg before leaving for London about 1812.}

{#12. Ball at Mrs. Boyton's, sister to Capt. Montgomery. Cousin Arthur, Son of Harris Prendergast, Barrister. Dresden. Jany. 18 }
Tuesday. Jan 18. 1858 {Corrected to "9"}
Dresden. 9.15. a.m.

My dear papa

On meeting uncle J. on Saturday, I found that he had accepted an invitation for me to go to a ball, given by Mrs. Boyton and Capt. Montgomery (both Irish). I was of course very glad to go, and went, yesterday evening, as I had been recommended, at 7 oclock. We began dancing before 8 and kept it up till a quarter past two! Nearly 7 hours. There were about 40 people there, all English or American with one or two exceptions. Among the people that I may enumerate is Capt. Montgomery, a very nice sort of person, he is a nephew S. Gordon's father in law, and lives near Stranorlar! Then there was Mrs. & Miss Allen, the latter a very pleasant young lady, the exact image of Miss M'Carthy; in manners, age, and appearance just like her, and a first rate dancer: Uncle J. desired me most particularly to make her acquaintance and dance with her, which of course I did, There were 5 or 6 American ladies there, some of them very pretty and agreeable, but nothing different from the English ladies in appearance. There was a Mr. Thompson & family from Belfast, and in fact the Irish and Americans formed the majority. I hear that there are 50 or 60 families of the latter residing here, and you meet thorough Yankee faces and voices everywhere. By the way, I have got a new mess mate here, a young American from Charleston (or thereaway) his name I have not made out, he has been here for 3 months in a German family, and has now come here, so that we have now 4 English, 2 Russians, a Swiss & an American at dinner we generally sit down 12 or 14, and at supper there are often more. I have been making uncle J. look out with me for a riding school and have found one which he thinks very good, and I shall begin immediately. The terms are 14 Thalers for 24 lessons - somewhat more than 1/6 a lesson! Rather different from Clarendon's.

Uncle J. is also very anxious that I should get a a mathematical master as soon as possible. Hitherto I have done nothing but German and gymnastics, it being the opinion of both uncle J. and the Professor that I should do nothing but German for the first 6 weeks or so. Every one here says that it is very easy to learn a little German, but that it takes a long time to make much progress in it. At this moment I am sitting with my window open and the thermometer is 5 degrees above freezing point - quite warm in fact, and very likely to night it will be 10 degrees below it.

Wednesday 19.

This morning the thermometer is higher than it has been since my arrival, viz 9 deg. above freezing point, so that it is absolutely warm. No more skating for the present of course. Yesterday morning I had a very pleasant visit from the Revd. Mr. Dale who came with many apologies for the liberty he had taken of inviting me to his house without having seen me previously, but he had presumed to do so on account of his acquaintance with my cousin &c. &c. &c. Arthur P. is very useful to me, as he is known and liked everywhere, and I am generally supposed to be his brother or some very close relation. I have been talking to uncle J. about getting into some German family, for although I am very comfortable here and enjoying myself very much, still I am not getting on much with the German, for this reason that the only time that I hear it spoken or have to speak it, is at meals, for not one of the fellows will speak anything but English unless compelled to do so, while if i was in a German family and living with them and constantly hearing and being compelled to speak German I should certainly make much more progress than I do here which is certainly not much, besides this I should have more time for working than I have here.

I dare say it would not be so pleasant for me, particularly at first, for I could not be much more comfortable than I am here. Uncle J. says that I am quite right, and that this is his opinion on the subject also. He has been making inquiries, but though there are plenty of houses where I could go, yet he had not heard of anything exactly suitable. At the gymnastic place I met a young Englishman of the name of Simpson who has been staying for several months at a house where there were no other Englishmen or anybody except the family and he said that he had been very comfortable and that they had taken great pains to teach him German. The house is in a most particularly desirable quarter close to uncle Js, and not in a street. He is going away in a week, and invited me to call on him any day I liked. Uncle J. recommended me strongly to go at once and make out all I could about it, and I shall do to day before dinner. I believe he is going to write to you to day on this subject. He agrees with me in thinking, that the great point is to get of the way of Englishmen, for where ever there are two or three, English is sure to be spoken more than German. I hope you will answer this as soon as possible, and let me and uncle J. know what you think about it. Tell mamma that I have had so much to write to her at present, and that she may consider the first part of this letter as intended for her. I was at tea at uncle Js last night, there were two Miss Johnsons there, who they were I do not know, but they were decidedly strong minded ladies and would certainly have frightened uncle Joe. Yesterday it was so warm that I went out dressed as I would in Dublin, and then wished I had put something lighter on, to day it will be still warmer, but one never knows when the frost will set in again.

Francis E. Prendergast

{Obviously Jeffry and JPP have regular correspondence, therefore FEP can assume of some of the persons he mentions, even recent acquaintances, that his father already knows who they are. A pity for us that we do not have Jeffry's letters.

"acquaintance with my cousin": Arthur Dalrymple Prendergast, see above.
NB: he is no longer in Dresden; his usefulness in absence lies in his good reputation - particularly within the Anglican congregation.

Simpson: since he is an acquaintance from the gymnastic place and still lives with that German family, he cannot be identical to the Simpson who lives at Hughes's.

"enclosed": the correspondence between the Dubliners and JFP may well be as frequent as FEP's; of letters going the same way, one has the others enclosed to save postage. This practice is very common even among writers for whom money is no object, if only to have a pretext for a visit. However, the postage also depended on the weight, in steps.

"close to uncle Js": again we see that frequently meeting Jeffry is of high emotional importance to FEP, beyond the practical support he offers.

"not in a street": probably with some space between it and the neighbouring houses.

"decidedly strong minded ladies": a family cliché, dating from the times of the Crimean war, says that Joseph Samuel Prendergast disapproves of strong-minded women.}

{#13. Party at the Dales. Search for another Boarding House. Dresden. 22
Jany. }
Dresden
Jan. 22.d 1859
7.45. p.m.

My dear mamma

I went to the Dales party on Thursday, and found a large party there, after a while the servants came in and took up the carpet for dancing, which commenced at about 9, and went until 12. It was a very agreeable party, but not very lively. We had a Sir Roger and the Revd. Mr. Dale danced in it himself. There was a German Baron there who invited all the young fellows to a ball on Tuesday next. All accepted it except Etlinger and myself. I had two or three reasons, first I know nothing about him, 2nd it was mostly Germans, and 3rd I did not like "the cut of his jib". On comparing notes with Etlinger afterwards (he is one of the Russians) I found that he had refused for pretty nearly the same reasons.

Now as to your questions. I have not seen or heard any birds since I came except canaries and sparrows and one blackbird in the Grosser Gartens. The stove is not lit before I get up in the morning. I wear no nightcap and have no intention of wearing one. To morrow I lunch, spend the day, and dine with uncle J. I think that I have seen him every day except one, since I came. I like having the sun so constantly as it is here I think it is always visible except when it is snowing I find it rather unpleasant sometimes here, when there are 8 or 10 people all smoking in a room with the windows and doors shut, but after all it is not often that it is too much. It has been so mild latterly that I have been going out

dressed as at T. T. I had a very pleasant letter from Mary this evening and also from aunt E. I shall post this letter tomorrow on my way to or from church.

Francis E. Prendergast.

I found that Simpsons rooms would do for me, but uncle J. is still looking out for some for me.

{Sir Roger de Coverley: An English dance; FEP seems to use the term for any kind of "country dance" = contredanse, as popular in many countries. Since such a dance typically does not involve as close a contact as a couple dance, it may be considered more suitable for a clergyman.

"T. T.": 3 Tower Terrace, JPP's address in Dublin.

Mary: perhaps Mary Jane Prendergast, who lives with her sister "aunt" Eliza Marian, so that they can send their letters one enclosed in the other? Or perhaps Mary Irwin?

Simpson's rooms: as mentioned in the previous letter.}

{#14. Life at Professor Hughes's. Same Date. }
{Either missing or a part of another letter erroneously assigned a separate number?}

{#15. German, Gymnastics, Drawing. Dresden. Same date }
Dresden.
Jan. 22. 1859.
9.30. a.m.

My dear papa

I received yours of the 17th on Thursday 20.th I been doing nothing but German and Hume since I came, the former occupies 3 or 4 hours a day, and the time I have here being considerably less than at home, there is very little extra time, and which, I spend in walking. I get up at 8 and go into breakfast whenever I am dressed, my room is then not ready for me, until past 9. I then generally write letters (as I am now doing) until 10. when my German master comes, at 11 he leaves, and I work until 12 (at the German) and then go to gymnasticise until dinner (at 1) or, as I shall do to day, out 3 times a week for the future, to my drawing master. The dinner is at 1, and the table does not regularly break up until half past two, but I generally manage to get away at 2. I then read Hume and do a little German until 3, when I go out, generally to the Grosser Garten, to meet uncle J. I then either walk about with him or alone, until 5. when I come home and work and read until 8.30. at which hour the supper is, it never by any chance over before 10, and as it is the only time when I hear German much spoken I always stay till the last; last night we had the Swiss playing, and did not break up before 11. You will see from this that 4 hours a day are spent at meals, which I consider a great waste of time, and after all one does not learn much German by it,

for, as the American remarked to me last night, one cannot expect Englishmen to speak anything but English to Englishmen, when they are in Germany, and as there are 4 Englishmen and an American here, and if you speak to either of the Russians they are sure to answer you in English, you will perceive the force of his remark, and you will also perceive why it is that I wish to get into a German family. I now want to get my gymnastics and riding before breakfast from 7.30 until 8.30 that is, if I can manage it, which would give me much more time.

Uncle Js friend, Prof. Nicolai found out for me a drawing master, who he says is the best here, and I am to go and take my first lesson this morning. He is also trying to find out a classical and mathematical master for me. (Pr. Nicolai is professor of Architecture here) I went to the picture Gallery the other morning with uncle J. I was quite astounded at its size and magnificence, it took more than an hour merely to walk through the rooms without stopping to look at anything!! Uncle J. said he would just take me over it, and that afterwards I might go and look at my leisure. The galley of engravings is nearly as large I hear, but we did not even look at it. It is all well lighted and warmed.

7.30. p.m. I went to my drawing master this morning, and was set down to copy a head - in pencil of course - and on his finding that I was not very expert with the pencil, he gave me a lot of _eyes_ to copy, and in course of time I shall get on to mouths ears and noses. Rather dreary work afte Sharpe. You may tell him this if you meet him, and also that he may be expecting a letter from me before long. I have just received a letter from uncle Joe (viâ uncle Jeffry). He is very anxious that I should begin the riding, and I shall try and get a lesson on Tuesday next. I must leave the account of my messmates for some other time, as I shall have only time to write to mamma before supper. It has got rather cold again to day but still no hard frost. I find that the shamois leather gloves are the warmest. Did you ever know that uncle J. does not, and never did, wear flannel?

Francis E. Prendergast.

[The Baron had studied chemistry in Switzerland. In 1850 he bought a chemical factory in Heinrichshall (near Gera in his native principedom), processing sulphur minerals from adjacent mines. It went bankrupt in 1854; he was found guilty of delayed filing and de facto exiled:
https://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/werkansicht?PPN=PPN746978294&PHYSID=PHYS_0242 .]

{Title page by mamma Esther}
Bundle No 2
From January 25th 1859
to July 16th 1859

{#16. Dog-carts. Good dinners, breakfast +c Dresden. 25 January. }
Dresden.
9.15. a.m. Jan. 25 1859.

My dear mamma.

This is a new kind of paper, which uncle Jeffry recommends, and which I think is very good, and, like everything here cheap. You would be surprised at the quantity I use in writing letters. My expences since I came here, coat and boots excepted, have been just shillings, 5/6 being for postage stamps. It is looking very dark this morning and I think we shall have snow, yet it is quite warm. I begin my riding to day, and have also a gymnastic lesson. I do not know if I ever told you about the dog carts here, they seem to use dogs just in the same way as we do donkeys, generally there is only one dog, but sometimes two or three. When the cart stops a piece of carpet is given to the dog to lie down on, and often another piece thrown over him. Some of the dogs are very merry looking, while other again look as if they would like to fly at you. Every dog here, without exception, is required by law to be muzzled, they have generally wire muzzles. I have not seen one donkey, and only one cat since I came here. Last night we had an army surgeon here, who played on the piano till 11.30. p.m. I and one or two others sat up listening, but most went to bed long before he finished. I am looking out for the frost to come on again, for there has been no skating for the last week. I do not think you would like the way the dinners are arranged here, the roasts making thir appearance near theend of the dinner. I looked at Mrs Hughes washing book yesterday, and found that the weekly expence is about 1/10 or 2/. and at the end of every month you pay 6d for the mending of stockings, shirt buttons &c Mrs. Hughes said I could pay by the week, month or quarter, just as I liked. I said I would pay by the quarter. I like the feeding here very much, the only objection being that the dinners are perhaps, a little too good, however that is a fault on the right side. The coffee is first rate, but the tea is not so good. Tell papa that I could not liken any of my companions to anybody I know, he must imagine them. To day it has been absolutely hot and if the sund had shown (which it did not) it would have been like summer. I am writing to M.felt. and will post this and it tomorrow morning. I have not had any more invitations to balls as yet, but I am in no hurry. It seems as if I never could get through my correspondence. i am always writing and always have more to write Jack, Sharpe, & Mr. Ensell must be written to before long

Francis E Prendergast

{#17. Companions at Professor Hughes's. Dresden 26 January. }

Dresden

9.30 a.m. Jan 26. 1859.

My dear papa,

I took my first lesson in riding yesterday. The reins are held in a different manner from Clarendons method the school is just about the same size, I took my lesson at 3, and was not alone, which would have been desirable for the first lesson. The master speaks only French and German, so I find it rather hard to understand him.

Tomorrow I go at 8. a.m. and on mentioning this to Mrs. Hughs she said i must eat "ein bischen" (a morsel) before I went and finish my breakfast when I come home. I am sure she is quite right in this

Stiffle is a complete Russian, also from Odessa, and studying at the Polytechnic, he is about 18, and is, without exception, the fattest and burliest fellow of his age I ever saw. He is always laughing and joking and practices all day long on the violincello. The Swiss van Berchem, comes from Bern, and belongs to some Swiss regiment, he has come here to learn German. His Father was a Flemish Baron, which accounts for the "van". He is a really first rate performer on the piano, and generally plays for us in the evening. Then there is a little (very little indeed) Frenchman from Paris, his father was English and he is an English subject, but is far more French than English. He is a melancholy little fellow, and generally gets the reputation of being half cracked - which indeed I think he is. He has been here for 5 months and can scarcely speak a word of German!! Not so much as I can in fact. Then there is Smith, a half Scotchman, who has lived a great deal in the Highlands. He is going into the Rifles, and expects his commission immediately. He is studying mathematics, French, German and the Broadsword. Simpson the last arrival from England I do not like at all. He is the son of a London banker. Lastly there is a little American called Sparkman, who has only been here a week. I get a great deal of information out of him about America and American customs, he is the only fellow here who will carry on anything like a conversation. I do not like any of them well enough to associate with them, and beyond talking to them at meals, or going down to the ice with them, I have nothing to say to them. Smith is the only one with much breeding, except perhaps Etlinger. I must now be off to my drawing master and I will finish this and mammas in the evening.

6.30 I got your letter this evening and took the enclosed to uncle J. immediately. I have not seen him either to day or yesterday. I do not consider that my time has been much wasted since I came, although I have done no Greek or Latin. To day I have already worked 5 hours and wrote letters for one hour. However I should certainly have more time for working, and more opportunities for learning German in a German family.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Frenchman": must be Hogarth, already mentioned on 07.01. and 10.01.

"drawing master": Anton Ludwig Kriebel}

{#18. Wish for a house with no English. Dresden. 28 January. }

Dresden.

9.15 a.m. Jan. 28. 1859.

My dear papa,

I was at tea at uncle J's last night and Dr. Seiler was there he said he would make inquiries about some German house that I might go into. Unless I could get into a family where they ar entirely German and no English whatsoever, I do not think I should be in a better way of learning

German than here, and unless some house can be found which can afford advantages to balance those of this house, I think it would be no use moving. Uncle J. seems to think that no house could be found except when there were some Englishmen, as in private families they have generally no spare room, and this house is too comfortable to be left except for some place which would afford great advantages, however I cannot believe but that some German family could be found where there are no other lodgers. The weather here has been most extraordinary, the thermometer averaging for the last 8 or 10 days plus 5, and there has not been any frost even at night In January this is said to be very unusual. My coat which I got here is of the most astounding warmth and consequently has been useless for the last 2 or 3 days, although in the cold it seemed as if one never could have enough on. The stuff it is made of is thicker than any I ever saw before, and its lining which is also cloth, is thicker than the stuff of the Inverness Cape! To day there is a slight drizzling Rain, but it always gets fine in the afternoon. I spent an hour in the Picture Gallery yesterday and came away dead tired I ought to have done something at the French before I came away, for almost everybody of any education here can speak it, and although I can understand a good deal of it, yet I can not speak it at all. The German I can generally speak but find considerable difficulty in understanding it thoroughly. I have often tried to combine the two but could never manage it. I shall finish this some other time. At this moment the window is wide open and probably every other one in the house also.

Jan. 29. 7.45. p.m.

To day we have had the first real rain that has fallen since I arrived, but it only lasted a few hours. I rode this morning from 8 till 9. there were 6 other fellows (all German) there. It is quite impossible for me to learn anything there at present, as I cannot understand the fellow who teaches, but I go there 3 times a week, and try and do what the others do. Let uncle Joe and uncle Willie know this, and tell them that they must be satisfied, for I can do no more. On the other 3 days I have got a gymnastic lesson at the same hour. I was with my drawing master for an hour and a half this morning. He has given me some eyes, noses, and faces to copy. According to his directions I have got "a Blockbook" which is just like those pads of blotting paper which some people have and when one sheet is full you take it off with a knife. I had also a German lesson to day for an hour, and have now been working for the last $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and I also read Hume for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour in the morning, so you see I am not idle. I think a dancing master would be almost a loss of time as one is laughed at, if they do more than walk through a quadrille. I had a grand vaulting match with Smith at the Gymnasium the other day. We went over the "horse" raised to its highest, that being about the height of my shoulder and of his chin or indeed perhaps of his eyes. I met uncle J. and aunt M. in the G. G. to day and came in, in the carriage. Uncle Jeffry makes an immense number of puns and jokes and then vainly endeavours to keep from smiling at them. To morrow I dine with them, it being Sunday This is the way my time is occupied at present. Monday. Gymnastics from 8 till 9. German 10-11. Drawing 11.30-12.30 Wednesday & Friday the same. Tuesday Riding from 8-9 German 10-11 Thursday the same. Saturday the same with the addition of drawing from 11.30 till 12.30.

This keeps me nearly as busy as I well can be, as the German takes a great deal of time.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P. S. Do you think a French master would be advisable? It is far more important than German, and this is a good opportunity for learning it.

{#19. First walk into the country. Dresden. 28 January. }

Dresden.

7.30 p.m. Jan. 28. 1859.

My dear mamma

I took a walk of about 6 or 7 miles (alone) to day. I went out into the country beyond the Grosser Garten, but there it is very flat and uninteresting, at the other side of the river it is much more interesting. I have now got my gymnastics and riding on alternate mornings before breakfast fairly established, and I eat my breakfast in two divisions one before I go (hours are from 8 to nine) and finish it when I come home. The weather here is something extraordinary for Dresden, I think it is warmer than we ever have in December or January.

I find that unless I think when I am dating my letters I always put 58 for 59. I did this in papas letter but have since corrected it. There is a very nice kind of lamp here, which I and all the other fellows are given, it is a sort of argand lamp, with thin porcelain shade (or bell) at the top. As in the Moderateur you can regulate the amount of light required. When I go into supper I have just the least possible flame and when I come back, I have nothing to do but to turn the screw and I have the full amount of light. At supper we always have two large Moderateurs. Glass globes are not used here, but instead of them a paper tundish is put on, this of course throws the light down, but you cannot read unless the book is on the table or very low down. There has been very little excitement here about the Princess Frederick Williams son, but they say that there have been great rejoicings in Berlin. I find that from writing so much German, that when writing English I am always inclined to make the German characters, which will account for my numerous blots. Tell papa that I have thought of a great likeness Simpsons face is just identical with that of "Pells" ("The original Bones") with the exception of course, of its not being black. I cannot think of any likeness for the others Hogarth and Stiffle are perfectly incomparable to any other people in the circle of my acquaintances.

The Elb her is a magnificent river not quite, but nearly as large as the Thames at London, however it is not deep, but considering Dresden is 500 miles from the sea it is a magnificent river. I hear that in summer 8 or 10 steamers pass up and down every day The ice has totally disappeared but I dare say we shall have the frost soon again. I am anxious for it on account of the skating. The 2d best place for skating is not 5 minutes walk from this house. The best (largest) is in the Grosser Garten.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Pells", "The original Bones": An American "minstrel" group, performing caricatures of African American culture, in Dublin for six nights in December 1858. On Jan. 14, there was "nothing whatsoever remarkable about" Simpson; but in the meantime FEP has come to dislike him, as we know from the letter of Jan. 26.}

{#20. New boarding house. Baron von Seckendorf's. Dresden. 31 January. }
Dresden.
Jan. 31. 1859.
8. p.m.

My dear papa,

I think a house just the very thing wanted has been found for me by Dr. Seiler and uncle J. The house is in the Räcknitzer Strasse on the ground floor i.e. the lowest floor but one. The people consist of a Baron Von Seckondorf (so pronounced) his wife a son of about 18 who is at the Poytechnic and a daughter who is a little younger. I have not seen them, but uncle J. went there to day to make inquiries, and said they seemed very nice people, there are no other Englishmen or lodgers of any kind, and they wish only to engage by the month, which of course is just what we want. Uncle J said that he had seen the room I would have and says it is better than this room which is certainly a very good one. The street in which the hous is, is one of the new streets and has no houses opposite, it is about 3 minutes walk from Carola str. - that is somewhat nearer than this street is, and is in fact in best part of the town. On looking over my list of letters received and despatched in the last fortnight I find that I have received 7, and despatched 8! considering the length of each I think that is pretty well for me. To day I have scarcely had a quiet moment, I went to my gymnastics at 8 had a German lesson at 10 a Drawing lesson a 11.30 dined at 1 read Hume from 2 till 2.45 went out at 3 with uncle J. came back at 4.30 and worked up till the time I began this, and in a few minutes I shall be eating my supper. To morrow morning I go again to ride at 8, so you see I am kept going pretty briskly.

Feb. 1st. I went to day with uncle J. to Baron Seckondorf and settled that I would go there to morrow after dinner. My decretion for the future is

7 Räcknitzer Strasse
bei (meaning care of) Baron Seckondorf.

I find it almost impossible to write any German name in English characters which was the cause of the first blot. I have just come in from a long walk; after leaving uncle J. I walked out somewhere into the country, and by chance hit a very pretty road running along by the Elb. I went as far as some little village built mostly of wood with a queer old wooden church. I was about 2 ½ hours and therefore conclude it was about 4 miles distant from Dresden. I got into the "guten Tag" ("fine day") region which proves it to be quite countryfied. Please forward the enclosed to Jack, and if you write, let him know of my change of

residence. Let them know of it also at Rostrevor and Magherafelt. I shall probably not write again for a few days until I get settled. The weather still continues fine.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Note that this is not the place previously envisaged as "Simpson's rooms", since these had been found by FEP himself.

More significantly, it looks as if the Seckendorff family had not been among Jeffrys direct acquaintances before. By FEP's testimony, they will be accepted to the inner family network surprisingly soon, with Annette Preußer acting as an accomodation agent.}

{#21. The Von Seckendorf family. Dresden 3 February. }
Dresden. 4 Räcknitzer Strasse
10.a.m. Feb. 3. 1859.

My dear papa

I have now been here since 3 oclock yesterday, and although I do not much like to speak on first impressions, yet I must say that I think I have got into the very best place that can possibly be imagined. My room is large and light. The baron appears to be a thorough gentleman, and I never look at his wife without thinking of aunt Matilda. The son is absent at the Polytechnic, except at meals, and although he is a very nice fellow, I think this rather an advantage. The daughter is most decidedly not good looking, but she is very agreeable. They have done all they can to make me at home, and if I do not learn German in two months I think I will be very stupid. The baron speaks a little English as well as the son and daughter but it is very little. The quiet of the place is very agreeable after the turmoil of people walking up and down the passage, which was a decided objection at Hughes. I got a letter from aunt Eliza last night, but there was no news in it. I rode this morning for an hour and was run away with in a general shindy which happened from one of the horses shieing, a little groom was thrown, but there was no damage done to anybody. I succeeded in getting my horse to canter for the first time, the riding house is very pleasant in the morning as the sun is on it, and there is no dust floating about, which is always the case later in the day.

My expences in moving to this house from Hughe's were 3/. Smith had got his commission the day before I left and was to leave next week. It causes only one room to become vacant as the American was one too many and had been stowed away in some hole or other. At Easter Etlinger leaves and his place will be taken by the young American from Pf. Hübners whose place I was to have taken so that there will be no vacancy there for some time to come. In takling with the American (young Sparkman the last arrival at Hughes) I was surprised to find that there was such an Irish feeling in America, he said that they hated the English like "pison" but that there was quite a different feeling with regard to Irishmen and Scotchmen and that Americans of Irish descent made no secret of it but on the contrary were proud of it while if of English

descent they were always anxious to conceal it. Whether he is to be thought worthy of credit is another matter, for he used to tell most extraordinary stories about America & the natives, but I dare say it is the case. To day it is colder, and some rain has fallen, but there has been no real rain since I came. The flagways in Dresden are very narrow but they make up for it by having pavement also, for walking on, and as Dresden is not a crowded city, it is not so uncomfortable as it would be otherwise. They have fluid gas lamps in this house, they give a splendid light and seem to have no smell. Uncle J. has one hanging in the centre of the room and says it is very satisfactory, the light is much whiter than that given by oil.

5.30. p.m. I called on Mr Dale, our clergyman, to day about a seat in the church, as there are no such things as free seats here. I am to meet him at the church to morrow and he will assign me some place. He is one of the liveliest little parsons I ever came across, and I like him very much. I am going this evening with the Baron to see some chemical experiments at a German lecture given by an Englishman. I want to get into the ways of the family as much as I can, and uncle J. is greatly pleased at my wishing to do so. You will find an account of the feeding here in mammas letter, and if you are not satisfied with it I can only say that I am. Professor Hughes said that I would be heartily welcome any day I liked to come in to dinner or supper, and that I must come in some evening soon, this I intend to do next week.

10.30. a.m. Feb 4. I have just been sitting with the Baroness & her daughter after my second breakfast for nearly an hour, this I consider time very well spent as it is the best German lesson I can have. It has been snowing this morning, but it is too wet for it to lie. I find that the gymnastics and riding do very well between breakfasts, but I can easily understand that they would not do before breakfast. My gymnastic hous is a good 20 minutes walk from here, so that I get the benefit of a 2 mile walk as well as the gymnastics. The riding house is quite close, and my drawing master about 15 minutes from this. Carola Strasse is quite close. I shall have had 10 Gymnastic lessons on Monday when I pay the fellow his 5 Thalers (15/).

Francis E. Prendergast.

Dresden. 7. Racknitzer Strasse

5. p.m. Feb. 3.d 1859.

My dear mamma,

I have just received your letter, as well as papa's, which was enclosed to uncle J.. I have got a really tip top room here, large and light, much superior to the one I had at Hughe's, though indeed I have no reason to complain of the one I had there. I dare say you will remark that the letters I write in the evening are much better written than thos written in the morning. The reason is this, after either riding or gymnastics, my hand always shakes and my writing is consequently not improved thereby. This street is almost the best to be had in Dresden, for there are trees and a large garden (private) opposite, and is almost in the country,

which is greatly preferable to the everlasting racket of the Marien Strasse. I suppose you will be asking me for a description of the Baroness, so I may as well give it to you at once. She is a very ladylike person without any affectation, I never look at her without thinking of aunt Matilda and yet she is not like her. She speaks no English, and when speaking to me she tries to speak slowly, so that I may understand, but she frequently forgets herself and tumbles out her German at such a rate that I cannot follow, and then laughs at herself for forgetting that I cannot understand her. The daughter is somewhat like Mary Irwin, but by no means so good looking. She can speak a little English as well as her brother but she will only speak German in my presence. The feeding about which both aunt Margaret and Dr. Seiler tried to frighten me is as good as can be desired. This morning at some unearthly hour the servant came in to light the stove, and at 7.30 they brought me in some coffee and two rolls, and after coming from riding I had another breakfast with the Baroness and her daughter. For dinner we had soup, veal, potatoes and carrots, for second course things somewhat like apple fritters and preserved pears, after dinner coffee, supper is at about 7.30 and consists of cold meat, bread, butter and tea. Is not that good enough for any one? I imagine that all over the world well bred people eat pretty much the same sort of things, though aunt M. says that all Germans live upon garbage!!! I must think of some little present for Mrs. Hughes, to show them that I do not forget them. I have seen no flowers in blow except hyacinths in some of the windows. It is a great luxury here not to have to run up and down stairs; being on the second floor at Hughes', and running in and out 5 or 6 times a day the everlasting 3 flights of stairs were rather disagreeable even to me.

My speed in writing is greatly improved, and I am glad to hear that you think it good. I use nothing but steel pens now, for quills would be too much bother. It has been quite soft since I last wrote and no signs of frost.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"all Germans live upon garbage": at times Margaret can be something of a snob, and imagine herself an Englishwoman like her Worcestershire-born mother.}

{#22. Life and living at the Von Seckendorfs Dresden 7 February }

{#23. Aunt Margaret indisposed. Dresden 7 February }

Dresden.

7 Räcknitzer Strasse. Feb. 7. 1859

3.. p.m.

My dear papa,

I am still very comfortable here, and have become one of the family, though I am only with them at meal time; we are very merry and I sometimes manage even to make a jok or pun in German. They have lived in Switzerland for many years and say that they always long to be there again. Aunt Margaret has been laid up almost all last week with some internal spasms, on Saturday she was quite well and I walked with her in

the G. G. Yesterday (Sunday) she was in bed, and from what I heard from uncle J, I fear in pain. He himself for the last 4 or 5 days has been confined to the house, with an inflammation of the face, round, but luckily not in the eyes, this is supposed to come from the sharpness of the wind I believe. For the last 2 days it has been a frost, so that in a day or two we shall have skating again. Yesterday i walked (alone) to Plauen and Potschappel., the last about 4½ miles off, the walk is exceedingly pretty, running through a narrow valley with high precipitous rocks (cliffs) on each side, a railway, a road and a river running at the bottom. On three sides of Dresden the country is very pretty but for the first mile it is about as flat and uninteresting as anything well can be. I am going now to make enquiries about a German master, as I thought it better to discontinue young Hughes. Uncle J. is looking out for a classical master as I am now suppose to know enough German to get some benefit from him. I have had no letters since Thursday which seems as if there must be something astray somewhere and I think that to day (Monday) it is past the hour of 2d post. Feb. 8th 5. p.m. Yesterday I got my first lesson from my new German master Mr. Nauwerk, I like him much better than young Hugh's and he is most highly recommended so I suppose that there is some chance of my getting on with him. To day it has been magnificent, a bright sun, no wind and a slight frost the whole day, last night it froze pretty had, but the ice is not yet fit for skating.

I have not had a letter from you since Thursday (this is Tuesday) which rather surprises me nor have I heard from any one else. Uncle J. and aunt M. are much better to day but she is still in bed. I have just come in from a long walk out on the other side of the town and called at 2 Car_o_la St. on my way home. Please forward the enclosed to Mr. Ensell, I wrote it some days ago, and I also have another half finished to Sharpe but that I shall send direct. Uncle J. expects to hear of a classical master every day but as yet he has heard of none.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#24. Life at the Von Seckendorfs. Dresden. 10 Feb. }
Dresden
Feb 10. 1859.
5.30. p.m.

My dear mamma

Your letter came yesterday evening and I was very glad to get it as I had not had a letter for nearly a week, and as I write at least 3 a week I thought this rather a hard case. I am wakened in the morning by the servant coming in at about 6 oclock to light the stove, I then generally get up soon after 7, dress, take two cups of coffee and a roll or two, and move off at a little before 8. I get back soon after nine and then go and breakfast again with the Baroness and her daughter, I get back to my room about 10, or sometimes if I am inclined to talk, a little later. Then 3 times a week I have to go to my drawing master from 11.30 till 12.30 and as he is quite a mile off it takes pretty nearly 2 hours, dinner is generally at about 1.30 or a little sooner and about 2.30 I get back to my room. I then generally go out from 3 till 5 and come home and

work till supper time which is about 7.30 I generally eat, sit, talk and laugh with them until 10, when I return to my room and work for an hour; on days that I have not drawing I some times go and hear the band which plays at the guard house for half an hour or so from 12 noon. The Barons name is von Seck_e_ndorf (with an _e_ not _o_), and I would suggest that you should put the "Germany" where I put the "Angleterre" viz. in the upper left hand corner, this of course is only fancy, but I think it looks more _respectable_. By the way in my account of the day here, I forgot to say that my German master comes every second day from 6 till 7. p.m. Feb 11th. 5. p.m. I have just come in from a walk to a place called Räcknitz about 3 miles off, and, succeeded at last in getting a birds eye view of Dresden there is only one other spot that I know of where this can be obtained and it is on the other side of the river, and even there it is not by anymeans a satisfactory view.

On my way home I called on uncle J., he and aunt M. had been walking in the G. G., so they may be considered as nearly well. I am looking out for the change into the new house, which will be on the 1st April, for I think it will be a pleasanter situation than this, that is, a green field on two sides. The time goes over very fast here and it seems as if my lessons came round not every second day, but every 6 hours. Our dinner to day was quite Irish, soup, roast mutton, potatoes pancakes and apples in two forms stewed and preserved.

Somehow I see a great many more _cats_ now than at first, perhaps it is because I walk more about the town.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#25. High birth and breeding of the Von S.s. A German evening party there. Dresden Feb. 10,11. }

Dresden.

Feb. 10. 1859.

4.45 p.m.

My dear papa

I received your letter yesterday evening and took the enclosed to uncle J. He and aunt M. had both so far recovered as to have gone out for a short drive, and on my calling there to day I found they were out, so I hope all will be right again soon. Yesterday evening I eat 2 suppers (N.B. I eat 2 breakfasts every morning), the way this happened was, that I had promised to go to Mr. Hughs that evening, his supper is not till 8.30 or 8.45 while here it is at 7.30, and while I was reading, the Baron came and said "wont you take a mouthful with us before you go, one of my nieces is here, she is only 16 and is betrothed already." I of course went in and found her a very nice young lady, but looking much more like 26 than 16. The whole of the family are people of birth and breeding which is of course very pleasant. I heard through uncle J. that the Baron had been once a man of considerable property, but having embarked in some speculation, was nearly ruined and has now only enough to live upon. The young lady his daughter, seems determined that I shall like her, and has little delicacies for my especial benefit, and endeavours to

improve my German as much as she can. The feeding is very much like Irish fare, except perhaps that the sauces are greasyer, however as they ar always separate one can take, or not, as they like. I am afraid that my time for working is not much improved, but then every moment that I spend with the family I am learning German. Clarendon I should have set down as about 50 not over 55 certainly, it is nothing new to me to hear of his fondness of literary matters, for I do not think I ever went to him without hearing something connected with books. As to the French master, uncle J. says he will be on the look out for some one, and he says nothing but a Frenchman will do. I have often thought that since I am on the Continent, it would be a good plan to spend a month or two in Sardinia or the south of France before I go home, as I might then learn Italian (which is understood all round the Mediterranean more or less) and improve any French I had learned here, to say nothing of the different countries I should see. Spanish I have heared, read and imagine would be easy to anyone who knows Latin.

Between these one might "knock out" a lingua Franca that would pass almost anywhere. German I have a great contempt for, as I think its numerous authors are its only attraction, however it is largely spoken, and I heared from the Russians at Hugh's that in Russia educated people never use their own language when speaking to one another, but instead, French or German, the Russian itself, being only used by the lower orders.

Feb 11. 10.30 a.m.

Yesterday Evening I was in German society for the first time. About 7.30 young Seckendorf came into my room and said, that two of his aunts were come to tea, and that I must come in and see them, I of course did so and found that one of them was a Baroness, and the other a most ladylike person, presently in came 3 Russian ladies, one of whom was the handsomest woman I have seen for some time, she is the Countess of Nostwitz, and though only 23, has been two years divorced from her husband and is now living here with her sisters, There was also a Russian gentleman of 21, who is studying engineering at the Polytechnic here. One of the Russian ladies spoke English perfectly, though she said she had never been in England. It is perfectly marvellous the way these Russians speak languages.

I found that I could not make anything of the conversation when more than one spoke at the same time, but when they spoke singly I could generally understand pretty well. I was greatly surprised to see the way the Seckendorfs came out, in ordinary they live pretty much like our selves but on this occasion they were quite fashionable, and had a really first-rate supper - minus wine or beer which hardly at all used in society here. If I knew French, I might go about here much more, for my German is by no means (as yet) sufficient for much conversation. The more I see of the Seckendorfs the more I like them, and uncle J. says that he hears them well spoken of everywhere. I was at the gymnastics this morning and surprised the man by the distance I can jump, which is more than he can - yet I only jumped 12 feet and I have often done 13½. Tell this to uncle Frank and ask him when he indends to write to me. From the very first day at the gymnastics I could always vault over a height as

high as my shoulder, which is the highest vault the man has. I shall send this letter and mamma's to morrow evening when perhaps I may have something more to say. 5.30. p.m. You see this letter is written at 3 different times', which I find to be the only way of getting through my correspondence. I cannot imagine how this paper gets so many blots for they seem to appear by magic There was skating yesterday morning but on my getting there in the afternoon I found that it had been stopped. I forget if I told you that a seat in the church which was assigned to me by Mr. Dale, will be 9/. for a year that being the the shortest time it can be had for. To day it has been most delightfully soft while yesterday it was freezing all day, this makes it very hard to dress suitably, as, if you put on a warm coat you may be overpowered, or if a light one you may be frozen, however my cold and cough are gone, and this is by no means a cold-catching place. This I send tomorrow morning instead of to day, as I had intended so you ought to get it on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning at latest.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Olga née Poël, divorced Reichsgräfin (= countess) von Nostitz, born 1835 in Odessa to German-born parents; see glossary. In 1861 she will marry her cousin Alexander Georg v. Harder, whose grandfather Dr. David Johann v. Harder was a close friend of Margaret(ta) Prendergast's cousin August Scheer in St. Petersburg. Note that none of the persons mentioned consider themselves ethnic Russians.}

{#26. Teach the two young Seckendorfs English dances: ball at the Pooles. Feb. 21+23d }
Dresden.
5. p.m. Feb 21. 1859.

My dear mamma,

My last with aunt Flora's enclosed was despatched in such a hurry that I had not time to answer your questions. My German master I am happy to say, comes to me, and I do not go to him, as you seem to imagine, my French master comes twice a week to me, and once I go to him. I believe that we will be on the same floor as we are now, when we go to Prager Strasse, I do not know if uncle Jeffry told you, that the Seckendorfs are going to have an American family living with them whenever we move, they or rather it, consists of an American Dr., his wife and an only son, who is somewhere about my own age, they come from Philadelphia, but have lived a great deal in France. I have made inquiries in all directions, but have been able to make out nothing more than that they are said to be very nice people. Miss von Seckendorff's hair is like Mary's, or a little lighter her eyes are blue. She goes out to some masters, and when at home, I think she is either occupied in the kitchen preparing the sweetmeats and superintending the cooking, or playing on the piano. By the way the brother plays very nicely on the piano. He and I went through a Sir R. De Caoverly for the benefit of the Baroness the other day, and afterwards I tried a German (old) waltz with Miss Seckendorff, and I have promised to teach her and her brother the Lancers Is not this like Magherafelt?

Miss S. does not skate, but she goes to dances occasionally. At dinner to day the Baroness asked me would I like to go to a ball to morrow, that the Pooles (the sisters and mother of the Countess of Nostwitz who was here the other evening) were going to give, and that if I wished to go I had only to call and I would be invited, I declined as my German is not sufficient to allow me to enjoy myself in Society. However I expect that in a fortnight I shall be able to get on tolerably. My room here is 21 feet by 13½, and has 2 windows, it is very light and cheerful, and altogether I enjoy the house amazingly. It seems to me quite natural to speak German, but I am reminded pretty often of its being not quite so natural by being at a loss for a word,

Feb 23.d 10. a.m. After all I went to the Pooles ball last night. They were kind enough to send me a special invitation, and as uncle J. had recommended me to make acquaintance with them, I thought it better to accept it. We had about 30 people only 2 not being dancers, and beginning about 9 or a little before it, kept it up till half past three, which was too long as we were all pretty well tired at the end. It was very agreeable, but I spoke more English than German, almost everybody in the room speaking more or less English. You have no idea how spiritedly the Russians dance - more than half the ladies, and many of the Gentlemen being Russians -. The last Ball that these Pooles gave the ladies half killed the gentlemen, but this time it was the ladies who were tired.

I shall not give a particular account of anyone, for you would not be much the wiser, however we had 4 students who had been telegraphed for, to Leipsiz 2 or 3 Russian gentlemen and the rest Dresdeners. There are 5 Miss Pooles (they come from Odessa) their mother, the Baroness and Miss Seckendorf and some other German ladies. They seemed to be all well-bred people and mostly very good dancers, the Russians all seem to be very agreeable people in every point of view, and certainly no complaints can be made of their dancing. There was tip-top music, consisting of 3 violins, a violincello and a flageolet! The supper was very good, and was managed better than anything I ever saw, instead of our going to it, a long table was brought in and placed in the middle of the dancing room, and when we had done the table was lifted out again; was not that neat? Tell uncle Willy that I was up to extra tours before I was a week in Dresden, and that last night I depended almost entirely on them. Altogether it was very pleasant, no English stiffness about not dancing unless you were introduced. I had heard previously that when the Pooles gave a dance that they did nothing but dance, but I could not have believed that it was so completely the case. The only drawback was that the rooms were so small, this however is almost always the case in Dresden. No less than two gentlemen came down from the slipperyness of the floor. I fully expect that this will cross a letter of yours but that is unavoidable.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{French master: Jacques Jules Comte.

American family: Dr. Betton, see glossary. The Baron's mother was born in Philadelphia as well - relatives or old-time friends?

Mary: Irwin, living in Magherafelt, mentioned on 03.02.1859 as Anne's likeness.

"4 students who had been telegraphed for, to Leipsiz": in order to mend a sudden imbalance of sexes, the host has invited four male students from Leipzig (three hours each way by train!). Money is no object for a née von Stieglitz; finding respectable and "well-bred" husbands for her six daughters (five misses and one divorcée) is worth every thaler - a Prendergast would pass, a priori.

"Pf. Hübner": the renowned Dresden painter Professor Julius Hübner (1806-1882) is a personal acquaintance of Jeffry and Margaret; among his sitters was Annette Preußer's sister Isidora von Gutschmid (1823-1854; <https://skd-online-collection.skd.museum/Details/Index/906792>). However, the person mentioned by FEP is much more likely to be the mere Doctor Hübner, school teacher, as listed above and to reappear later; William Sparkman seems to be his student. The name Hübner is very common.

Sparkman may confuse ethnic prejudices with political anti-English feelings shared by many US citizens of all backgrounds, whereas "Anglo-Saxon Protestant" has always been the most prestigious ethnic group in the country. Anyway, FEP is very pleased with the Americans this time; obviously he is concerned about the bad image of Irish people in England.

Sir Roger de Coverley: An English dance; FEP seems to use the term more broadly for any kind of "country dance" = contredanse, as popular in many countries in quite similar variants.

Music: FEP enjoys music, but has surprisingly little knowledge about it, starting with instrument names.}

{#27. German and French studies. Feb. 23d. }

Dresden.

5.45 p.m. Feb 21. 1859.

My dear papa,

On Friday last I went out with uncle Jeffry to look for some maps, and I got one of Europe and another of Germany. The one of Europe contains in addition to Europe, all Africa north of 25° and Asia west of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Aral, it has also small border maps of the population, religion and ethnology. Size 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 10. It is on Canvass in a case, price 7/6. The one of Germany is the same size and contains not only Germany but the south east of England, north east of France, Italy north of Ravenna and Bologna, parts of Croatia Hungary and Poland, and Denmark south of Copenhagen, with all the adjacent countries; it was 9/. on canvass and in a case with six most beautiful Railway Maps which are given gratis. They are far superior to anything that we have at the same price, and contains one thing that our maps are sadly deficient in, viz. scales of the miles used in every country contained in the map. Yesterday and this morning it was a hard frost, and we were beginning to talk about skating, but this evening it is a thaw again, the Elbe too is

much swollen so that I suppose there is a thaw in the mountains. To day I have had a hard days work, at 7.30 I started off to my gymnastic fellow who lives more than a mile off, at 9.15 I got back and got my 2nd breakfast, at 9.45 I went off to my French master who lives nearly half a mile from this, at 11 I went from him to my drawing master who lives about a mile away from him, and at one I was back here; at 3.30 I went out for a walk and came back at 4.30, and now, (6.15) I am expecting my German master every minute. Feb 23d. 3.30. p.m. I kept this letter open so long as I had expected to hear this afternoon, but as nothing came I shall post it, and afterwards go and call on uncle J. who I have not seen since Sunday. You will find an account of a ball I was at last night in mamma's. I have had 3 French lessons only as yet, so I can not say much about it as yet, but my master seems anxious that I should get on, which is a great point. 4. p.m. Your letter has just come with another from uncle W. which I have not yet read. I shall not give up the drawing unless I cannot help it, for I like my master very much and the two Professors of uncle J's acquaintance say he is the best in Dresden. Fitzgibbon is only Mr. E's. friend - the brother of his pupil. Tell mamma I will answer her questions in my next. I don't imagine Crookhaven (and never dix) or Berehaven will be ever anything more than ports for occasional visits. Berehaven I had alway understood was very dangerous for strangers. I should think that the Turkish bath might be very well once in a way but I have always read that it is very enervating.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#28. Walk to Tharandt. Dresden. March 3 }
Dresden.
March 3.d 1859.

My dear papa

I got your letter yesterday evening when I came home from my walk, of which I shall now proceed to give you an account. In the morning, befor dinner, I had had two lessons, and walked about 5 miles in going to and from them. After dinner I thought I ought to take a little extra exercise, and determined to go to Tharandt, a small town lying about 9 miles southwest of Dresden. I left at 2.45 - immediately after dinner that is - and walked on alone as had as I could to Tharandt, it took me just $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours and the same back, so I conclude it is 9 miles - at least. I went there and back in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours which is not long for 18 miles I think. I never sat down once, and only stopped twice to look at the map, considering that I had fenced, and had gymnastics for an hour in the morning, and walk for more than an hour, and having been busy from 7.30 till one I think I might have been tired, but I was only the livelier for it, and this morning am fresher than ever, so that I conclude I am in good condition. Tell this to uncle Joe. The walk is very pretty, a railway, road, and a river running through a narrow valley thickly inhabited, and the hills on each side pretty well wooded. Tharandt itself is very pretty, lying in a triangle formed by 3 hills which ar covered with Pine wood. The Seckendorfs are greatly astonished at my speed as carriages are supposed to take nearly 2 hours. I shall look for some ancient maps, but I do not like getting anything but what is absolutely

necessary on account of the luggage. I am reading German for my own amusement now, and find that I can read it almost as fast as English - that is so as to understand the sense, not every word as you may imagine, and I have been trying my hand at newspapers, but find them not so easy. I do not know how it is, but I am always working and yet never seem to have any time, except what is absolutely required for walking, without which I could not exist. I never knew anything like the way the time goes over here, it seems as if there were no week days, but that the Sundays - which are the only days that have anything remarkable in them - come in constant succession, so much so indeed, that I consider Wednesday as quite at the end of the week. I am certainly in the right place for learning to speak German, and even now I sometimes think in German, which is said to be a good sign. I often think of what might be done in the walking line if you were here, as we could easily go through the best parts of Bohemia in a week - the frontier is only 25 miles from here, and Prague, which is said to be beautiful, is only a 4 days walk from here. I suspect that the wayside Inns are very cheap and sufficiently good. I hear of numbers of people who in one summer have walked through the best parts of Southern Germany and North Italy. Uncle J. is beyond much walking now, I am afraid. you might send this letter to uncle Joe.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{The walk from from southern Dresden to Tharandt is 14.5 km , almost exactly 9 miles.

"uncle Joe", Dr. Joseph Samuel Prendergast, is the family's health wallah (or guru) and will survive his nephew by decades.

"Uncle J. is beyond much walking now": i.e. Jeffry can and does walk in the park, but not quite enough to keep up with young FEP. Even aunt Margaret makes a brave attempt, as we have read on Jan. 10.}

{#29. Teach Miss Von Seckendorf English. party at the whittles. Dresden
March 5 }
Dresden
March 5. 1859.

My dear mamma

Since I last wrote the only change has been in the wearher, which for the last 4 or 5 days has rained more or less, and everything consequently is in a shocking state with mud. Everything in the house goes on as before, unless perhaps somewhat merrier than before. To day I paid a visit on Captain Montgomery but he was not at home, however I saw some of the Boytons They certainly do possess a fearfully strong Irish accent, north western I believe, but certainly it is bad enough even for Cork. I find that the American family who are coming to live with the Seckendorffs, will not come till May, so that I hope to have made some way in German before I come in contact with English again. I have noticed that all the lilacs here are covered with buds, but uncle Jeffry says that they will be all nipped off by the frosts, which always come in April. I have not

been at Hugh's, or seen any of his people for more than a fortnight, but I must drop in there some evening to supper, which is the most approved method of making a visit there. To morrow - Saturday - I dine with uncle Jeffry. I was in there for tea the other evening when Dr. Seiler and another gentleman were there. Dr. Seiler is a very odd sort of a fish, but I like him very much, he is fearfully shortsighted, so much so in fact, as to be half blind, he understands English perfectly (having been in England) but he speaks both it and German very indistinctly.

I had expected a letter yesterday or to day from you or uncle Joe, but I suppose I shall get one on Monday morning, on Sunday, Monday afternoon and all Tuesday, there is no English post here, the reason of this I do not understand but it is something connected with Sunday. The postmans uniform is very singular, a light canary yellow tunic, and blue trousers, with a yellow stripe. It is a most decidedly ugly uniform, but at present they have long great coats of brown, and are not to be distinguished from soldiers, or indeed any government official, as they all have these long brown coats. The police uniform I have not yet satisfactorily made out, but I think it is dark blue, with a helmet of black leather and brass.

Sunday 6. this morning I got a note from Mrs. Whittle saying that she had been commissioned to invite me to a small (qu?) dancing party at Mrs. Allens - which is next door!! I, of course, accepted. Young Boyton called yesterday to invite young Seckendorff, so I suppose we shall go together it begins at some unheard of early hour - 7 or so, which is a sure sign that they are going to dance in earnest. I shall call on Mrs. Whittle on Tuesday morning (the day of the party) to thank her for the trouble she has taken, as this is the second party she has got me invited to.

I have been giving Miss Seckendorf lessons in reading English, but the explaining the difficult parts in German is anything but easy, however it is good practice for me. Last night we sat up until 10.30 playing all sorts of odd german games, some of them like our "cross questions and crooked answers", and such like things. I do not know whether I ever told you the Barons age; he is 56, and the Baroness is 15 years younger, which would make her 41. He was married before, and had two children, but they both died young. The Baron has told me that whenever I want any white gloves cleaned, to bring them to him, and he will make them as good as new, by some chemical process. I have seen many that he has cleaned, with his son and daughter, and they are certainly wonderfully revived. I shall post this letter on my way to church, but I do not know whether it will go any sooner than if I posted it tomorrow. Everything here, except dancing and music, without which the Dresdeners cannot exist, is stopped on Sunday, they do not approve of dancing on Saturday night, but on Sunday it is quite another thing. Is not this strange?

Make Grandmamma and aunt Nannie write to me when they come up, and also give uncle Frank a stirring up

Francis E. Prendergast

{#30. German Studies. Rudeness of the zany Americans Dresden March 6. }
Dresden
March 6. 1859.

My dear papa

I enclose a specimen of the cards I have got. Uncle Jeffery said he thought the best way, was to get a hundred lithographed, which was done and this is the result, it is altogether larger than I intended, but is yet smaller than the usual Dresden cards, the hundred was 4/. I have been copying a head in pencil after Raphael, which is as you will imagine rather hard, and I was dead beat after an hour and a half at it last night. Kriebel does not paint at all to my fancy, but her certainly draws beautifully, and copies with the most extraordinary accuracy. I am to be set to work at drawing statues after the antique soon, it will be much pleasanter work, but with the accuracy that Kriebel requires I suspect very difficult. I find the maps I have got invaluable, and often study them, the one of Germany, which is a magnificent one, contains the very spots where the war - that is, if we are to have a war - would be. I do not comprehend how it is, but my progress in reading German is by no means proportionate to that in speaking it, and yet most people find the reading the easiest part. Last night I got young S. to read me some Latin and Greek with the German pronunciation, and had I not known what it was that he was reading, I certainly could not have recognised it. They also brought out some Alt Deutch, or old German, which is as different from that of the present day, as Chaucer or Spenser from the modern English; it is far softer and more liquid than the modern German, and seems to have more resemblance with English; the number of words which are exactly the same in English and German is very curious, the customs and games too, are almost identical, and they have a dance very much like the Sir R. de Coverly, which you have seen at Chesneys and probably elsewhere. You see plenty of men with very English faces, but not often among the women.

I have passed the king twice in the last weeks without taking off my hat, for the simple reason that I did not know who it was, the young Americans here will not take off their hats when he bows to them!! and say that they think the "Britishers" very slavish for doing so! Is it any wonder that that they are disliked here? They seem to take pride in dressing themselves as slovenly as possible, for they say dress was invented by people who thought it of the greatest importance

Francis E Prendergast.

{#31. Ball at the Allens: beauty of the Russian and American ladies.
March 9. }
Dresden.
March 9. 1859.

My dear papa

Last night I was at the Allens ball which was the pleasantest party I was ever at. We had between 35 and 40 people there, and beginning soon after

7.30, danced as hard as we well could till 1.30, which is a much better hour for finishing than 4 a.m. like the last party I was at. I never saw so many good looking ladies collected together before, for of all the young ladies there were only two who could not be called pretty. There was one lady in particular who was very handsome or rather pretty, a Miss Schrader, a German-Russian, who danced most splendidly. There was also a young Mr. Russel and his sister - son and daughter of the builder of the "Great Eastern" both very goodlooking, and the young lady very agreeable, she is somewhat like the youngest Miss - I forget the name who was at the Chesneys party - 2 brothers and 2 sisters, perhaps you recollect them. We had 10 Dances, a capital Sir R. de C., and a terrific cotillon. Miss Allen, as might be expected, was the nicest person in the room, and many thought, the handsomest. I danced 3 dances with her. We also had the two American ladies Miss Carruthers & Miss Baldwin, who we had at the Boytons. There were about 6 German ladies, and several German gentlemen, and I spoke more German than the night I was at the German party!

I am beginning to have a very favourable idea of the Russian and American ladies, for all I have seen here - and is a good many - are mostly pretty and sparkling. It would have been impossible to make out a better party, everything went off just as it should, and I do not think that there was ever anything more spirited than the dancing. This morning I have had my gymnastic lesson, and am as fresh as if I had not dance at all. I am afraid it will be the last party here, as almost all the old English residents will be soon moving off, and the Germans do not dance much in Lent. These last two days it has been quite warm and springlike but this morning it is blowing and snowing hard.

Your inference about my occupying young Ss nest is not correct, for the three years that he has been in the Polytechnic he has always had separate lodgings.

I have got a wide-awake under uncle J's superintendance; it is dark brown. The front of this house, and all the sitting rooms, face north west and consequently at this time of year get no sun whatsoever. I cannot ask about the views until you give me the title of the Book, which all-important part, you have hitherto quite forgotten to tell me.

I have never been making inquiries about a history of Saxony, but uncle J. says he doubts there being any history of Saxony separate from that of Germany in general. Going anywhere at Easter is by all means to be avoided, as the country round is inundated with pleasure-hunters, which is also the case at Whitsuntide. Steamers are going up and down the Elbe now, every 2 hours or so, and yesterday I saw one trying to pass through one of the arches of the bridge, but she failed, and bumped heavily against the pier. This morning I met Mr. Dale in a heavy snow storm when I was on my way to my drawing, and walked a short way with him. I have been out in no less than 4 snow storms to day, the first at 7.30 a.m and the last at 4.30 p.m. Last night I got 4 good hours sleep, which was the first time I had ever got a good sleep after a party. I had a letter from uncle Joe on Monday evening (yours came in the morning) which you might mention when writing next to him.

Yesterday and the day before were, as I said, quite warm, and to day it is piercingly cold, with snow and hail ad lib. Tell uncle Willie I have not time to write to him at present, in fact my correspondence has been accumulating lately, and it is not easy to clear it off.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#32. The Grosser Garten. The Picture gallery. Dresden March 9 }
Dresden
March 9. 1859.

My dear mamma

You will find in papas letter the account of the Allens ball which is the only event I know of. I walked out theis afternoon to the Grosser Garten to look for uncle J. and found him and walked back with him, aunt Margaret having gone home previously, on account of the snow and cold. I am writing this by daylight now, and have, and hope I shall have, plenty of light for some time - 5.30. p. m. If you are writing to Magherafelt you may tell Mary to be expecting a letter from me before long. Is there no news from Jack?

I am rather at a loss for news to give you as I think I have told everything to papa. I got some capital dancing gloves here for 1/9, whcih is very cheap, as they are dearer here than with us, I was in the Picture Gallery yesterday morning for an hour and afterwards listenen to the military band for half an hour. It (Tuesday) is the only day in the {week} that I can do either. By the way I saw a squirrel in the G. G. to day, uncle Jeffry says that the place is always full of them from the time that the frost leaves; this fellow looked very much like a small rabbit hopping about, I saw him very satisfactorily with my glass and before long he went up a tree not spirally but straight. It was the first wild squirrel I had ever seen. I have not been at Hughes for nearly three weeks, hut I must really go soon again. The facht is that I enjoy my evenings here so much that I am rather unwilling to leave them. I have only been once to the theatre since I came, and uncle Joe writes to me that I expect to go occasionally, which indeed I think myself, for the sake of hearing the German, yet I think I learn quite as much in an evening here. Tell Bridger that the servants here wear no bonnets and seldom caps or anything more than what they wear in the house. Old "Mac" I have only once spoken to and twice seen. Uncle J. has got a man servant who is a very impersonification* of everything that a servant should be, and actually speaks a few (very few though) words of English. Mr. Thompson, I find, is from Carrickfergus and is going home soon, after a three years absence.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. Our Sir R. de C. last night was perfection, not a single mistake.

*This word is meant for impersonisification

{Magherafelt: home of Mary Irwin.

"impersonisification": mere "impersonation" or "epitome" would not do him justice by far. I have reason to believe that the couple speak English among themselves, thus the servant is not even tempted to eavesdrop.}

{#33. An American family Coming to lodge at the V. Seckendorfs. Dresden
March 13. }
Dresden
Sunday March 13
10. a.m.

if papa is not at home when this comes send it in to him reading it first.

My dear papa

The Baron has just come into my room to speak about my staying with him. You know I am here by the month, and on April the 1st we will move into new quarters; on May 1st he receives the American family Betten. (father, mother and son) until they come he has plenty of room, but when they come there would be no room (according to present arrangements) for me. N. B. He had arranged this with them before Christmas so that they were engaged long before I came. I think he told this to uncle J. when he was making arrangements for me, but he probably forgot to tell you. The Baron says that if he was sure of my remaining with him till summer - no exact time need be fixed - he would make arrangements so as to manage this but that he could not undertake it otherwise, on account of the expense. This I think is very proper, and I believe that the family are really anxious for me to stay with them - at all events I am. He wishes to have an answer as soon as possible, so I hope you will answer without delay as up to what time my stay is certain to last, which of course does not preclude its being longer if desirable.

I shall speak about this to uncle J. after church but at all events I wish you would answer either to him or me as soon as possible, or if that does not give you time to think to tell him to act as he thinks best. In short anything would be better than to leave this family. The baron wishes to know as soon as possible, so I suppose if you write immediately I might get the answer by Friday or Saturday. I am afraid that the composition writing and spelling of this letter is not what it ought to be as I am writing against time, for the time for going to church is rapidly nearing. I made a very pleasant walk yesterday with young S. which combined the triple advantages of exercise, company and speaking German I shall probably begin, and finish if possible another letter to night as at present I have only time to fill this sheet The poor Baroness has been laid up the last two days but to day she made her appearance again.

Francis E. Prendergast

{Like Seckendorff, Dr. med. Thomas Forrest Betton is an adept of chemical sciences, co-author of "Elements of chemistry: for the use of colleges, academies, and schools" (1853) and other books.}

{#34. The yearly fair of Dresden. March 14. }
Dresden.
March 14. 1859.

My dear mamma

I shall be very glad to get over a few small things by Miss Preusser. I wish you would look out a few small views of any pretty parts of Ireland - Rostevor or Killarney for instance - and send them to me viâ Miss P., as I wish to give the S.'s something for their albums, pick out some with mountain and sea scenery if possible. I think you will find that you will have to get another blind in place of the one you have moved out of my room, and I only hope that aunt Nannie and Grandmamma will not break their hearts with it, for sometimes it was impossible to draw it up or down.

Tom I think must look very well on a green rug; what colour is the new crumb-cloth? The projection in my plan between the door and stove is the washing stand and over it hangs a shelf of German books.

Last Saturday I did not speak one single word of English, unless to ask the meaning of it in German, this however seldom happens as I generally see uncle J. or somebody I know. Yesterday and to day it has been raining a good deal so I suppose it will be fine to morrow, for this is genuine March weather combining everything from a hot sun to a hard frost in the same week. I find my wide awake very comfortable and have taken to regularly wearing it. No news from Jack, Sharpe, uncle Frank, or Mr. Ensell. Sharpe and Ensell I did not expect to answer however. Tell uncle Frank I want to hear all about Poerio from him. I am in a fearful arrear of letters and am endeavouring to knock a lot off this evening

I dined with uncle J. yesterday and we were for the first time without the lamp at dinner.

I have just come in from wandering about the town looking at the yearly fair, everything is conducted quite quietly and an immense deal of business going on. The number of Soldiers here is very curious, while on the other hand you only see 4 or 5 policemen in a day. They are most unlucky in weather for the market (or fair rather) but perhaps it will be fine to morrow. You must excuse the way this is written, for I really have not had, and will not have, a spare minute to day, from 6.30 a.m. till 7.30 p.m. I have not a quiet moment and I must contrive to write some letters after supper

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Annette Preußer lives with her father's family at Lockwitz near Dresden, but often travels to England to meet her relatives and friends, e.g. the famous singer Jenny Lind (Goldschmidt) on 31.03.-02.04.1859 in Wimbledon. Obviously she serves a supply chain between Dresden and Caroline Prendergast, perhaps via Bath?}

Dresden
March 14. 1859.

My dear papa,

I am now beginning this with the intention of having it ready for to morrow. I had a good deal of talk yesterday with uncle Jeffry about the state of affairs, and he paid a visit to the Baron, the result is, that we all think it (my staying, that is) will be easily managed, at all events I am sure of remaining as I am at present, until the 1st May. To day and to morrow are the days of the Jahr Markt, or yearly fair, and the streets are all blocket up with boothes, street music may be heard in all directions too, N.B. this strictly prohibited on all other occasions. I am going to tea at Mrs. Whittle's tomorrow morning to meet the Allens and uncle Jeffry and aunt M. On coming in this morning at about 12.45 (I had begun with gymnastics at 7.15 a.m. and had been busy all the intermediate time) I found a note on the table, and on opening it found a card of a Mrs. J. Trumbull White hoping to have the pleasure of seeing me at 8 oclock on Thursday evening next. I never heard of her in my life, but of course I shall go, perhaps uncle J. or Mrs. Whittle will know something about her. I suppose it is a dancing party from the hour. I have been at 5 balls since I left Ireland and have been invited to 3 more which I think is on the whole pretty well. I have been a good deal with young S. lately and and am beginning to like him very much; he will have some holidays at Easter and also at Whitsuntide, and having found that he is fond of walking I have been proposing to take a stretch of a week or so somewhere, which he thinks would be a very good plan. Prague - in Bohemia - is only 80 miles off, and the scenery beautiful; everything is raving about the beauty of Prague, and the Saxon Switzerland lies on the way. It would be easy to go there and back in 8 or 9 days and I fancy the living would be nearest to nothing. What do you say to this? There could not be a better way of seeing the country and such opportunities may not always occur for seeing strange countries and learning German, for, for the time I was away, I of course would speak nothing but German. Take a look at some of the numerous maps about the house - I think you will find good maps of this part of the world in my collection of those of the Society for the D. of U. K. - and tell me what you think of it.

I think I will call on uncle J. this afternoon to see if he knows anything about this Mr. J. T. White. I have borrowed a German book on Butterflies from young Seckendorff and find that they have pretty nearly the same Butterflies as we have. The plates, or rather woodcuts, are the best I have yet seen and are beautifully coloured. He is, or was, a collector and seems to take a great interest in Natural History in general

I was talking about Architecture the other evening to the Baron when to my surprise he brought out 2 large folios of plates and letterpress on the subject in question, and at another time he brought out a whole lot of maps of all kinds and descriptions. -

I have just seen uncle J. and he can give me no information about the invitation I received this morning, but he recommended me to go, which

however I had intended from the first. I have heard some more about the new house which makes me think that everything can & will be arranged all right. I shall post this tomorrow morning on my way to the riding school.

F. E. Prendergast

{"Society for the D. of U. K.": Society for the Distribution of Useful Knowledge, an editor of maps, statistics books etc.}

{#35. The Whittles and Allens. Ball at Mrs. White'. Dresden March 16th + 18th }

Dresden

March 16. 1859.

My dear mamma

I am beginning this letter now but when it will be finished I do not know. I spent a very pleasant evening yesterday at Mrs. Whittle's and talked the whole evening with Miss Allen. I find that she has an uncle - an Allen - living at Clough near Dundrum C^o Down and is often there. You must make inquiries from aunt Nannie about them; I think that the 3 Allens are some of the pleasantest people I ever met, and I must try and keep up acquaintance with them somehow or other. They are great friends of uncle J's. To day I have done a good deal in the visiting line, at 3 p.m. I went to call on the Dales to thank Mrs. D. for getting me invited to this ball. There I found Smith and Hogarth (Hughes) who had come on precisely the same errand. Afterwards I went to call on this Mrs. White N.B. I had never seen her before nor she me! and paid a very pleasant visit of half an hour, she asked me if I knew many Americans here (she is from New York) and on my mentioning young Starkman (Hughes) she asked me if I would be kind enough to invite him! I said I should be most happy and ported off to the gentleman in question and bagged him!!! He is to call here for me tomorrow evening. Is not that pretty well for one day? I find that this Mrs. White has with the assistance of Mrs. Dale been hunting for me all over the town looking at Hughes, Hubners Madame Dillon's, the younger Hughs and I don't know where besides!!!!!! Is not that a great honour?

18th March 9.45 a.m. I am not long home from the ball yet, of which I will give you an account. In the first place young Starkman sent an excuse to say he could not come so I went alone. It ws a very large ball, about 80 people or so, four from Hughes were there and many of the ladies and gentlemen I knew, it was very agreeable and we danced from 9 till 2.30 a.m. Mrs. White is a very American lady very agreeable and anxious to do all she could for her guests. Mr. W. is a strange sort of a little fellow young enough almost to be her son and Miss White is a thoroughbred Yankee talking through her nose in the most fearful way but very pleasant in spite of it all, there were numbers of German ladies and a few gentlemen. It was too large to be so agreeable as the Allens which was indeed a model party. The supper was very well managed and first rate satables, the only drawback was that the gentlemen had to stand. Their rooms are magnificent and were most tastefully adorned. Its largeness was its only drawback. None of the Allens were there, and the English and

Germans (we had 5 officers) far outnumbered the Americans. I shall now answer your questions. We have very seldom any strangers in the evening here as the Baron prefers being alone with his family. I know nothing about the holidays taken by masters at Easter but I suppose it is a fortnight, and you have already heard of my intentions. I believe young S. enjoyed the Allens party amazingly, at all event he has talked about nothing else ever since. None of the family go to the theatre except Adolf (that is the correct way to spell it) and he goes very seldom. This is a most lovely day and makes me wish that I was on my way to Prague. All the lilacs here are in actual leaf and all the other shrubs in full bud. I dare say that there will be a letter this evening but I shall not keep this on the chances, that is if I can get it ready before one oclock. Answering letters regularly would never do. I must pay Mrs. Whittle a visit this morning if possible but I am afraid I shall not have the time.

No letters from any one yet have come to hand, always excepting Tower Terrace. Keep uncle Frank in mind that he ought to write to me

Francis E. Prendergast

{The White family is not found in the Dresden directory but must have spent at least the preceding two months in the town; their 11th child is reported to be born on 12.01.1859 there. Obviously the lady won't miss a chance, however slim, to invite a potential husband for her daughter Emily, hence her preference of Americans; other speakers of English may do all right. But obviously the family is also keen on making a massive impression on the local upper class, which only makes sense if they do not plan to move away too soon. As for Mr. White, FEP either misjudges his age or mistakes the person; a ball is lady's business anyway.

Dundrum County Down: in Northern Ireland}

{#36. Young Scott Russell. March. 18. }
Dresden
March 18. 1859.

My dear papa

You will find an account of my last ball in Mammas and as my time is very short I will only answer your questions. You must not imagine that my small telescope has such extraordinary power as you seem to think it possesses, it is only a very good one. You speak of never forgetting the history of any place you have ever seen; this is not the case with me in history, but with regard to machinery or inventions it is exactly so with me as history is with you. I hope you will take care of the index maps you have got and don't let them vanish like those of Donegal or Cork and Kerry. After the ball last night I walked home with young Scott Russell he seems a very nice sort of a young fellow and very well informed, he complains of the Polytechnic being very poor and says that the professors will take no pains witho you. He is living with his sister in the Hotel de Belle Vue and has been here for some months. I was introduced to the Dresden Belle last night a Miss Maitland half

American she is very fine and decidedly handsome but not so pleasing as some of the other ladies. I have no time for any more.

Francis E. Prendergast

{#30. The American family, the Bettons. Dresden. March 21. }
March 21. 1859.
Dresden.

My dear mamma

Yours and papas which I had expected on Saturday did not come till this morning. I am very glad to hear that you have actually got Grandmamma with you again safe and sound. What did aunt Nannie think of the high tide?, tell her to write me an account of it herself. I will write to them when I can but when that will be, remains to be seen. The weather here. Tuesday 22. This letter was suddenly interrupted yesterday evening by the Barons asking me to come into the next room and be introduced to the Bettens; I went in and found the father (N.B. There was very little light and I only saw them for about 2 minutes) not at all American looking and apparently a very nice sort of person, the son is an out-and-out young Jonathan of not much more than 16. The father is going back to America next Saturday and is coming back in the middle of June, the son and another young American of about 23 or so are to stay with us. The Baroness has been laid up all the past week, but she is all right again now. I have not the least idea how long I should like to remain here with my present masters, not very long I think. I never read any newspapers or new books except on Sunday when I am with uncle Jeffry, and I find the want of this telling greatly telling against me until now I had always looked upon it as an amusement but now I see how very necessary it is. The weather to day has been somewhat rainy and cold yesterday it was most beautiful The shrubs here are all in, or nearly, in leaf, but many of the trees have still their old brown leaves remaining, little fountains are playing everywhere and some of the larger ones also, but the orange trees with which the Zwinger is filled in summer are never brought out until the middle of May; wide awakes are appearing in all directions but straw hats have not yet shown themselves.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"an out-and-out young Jonathan": note the indefinite article. I guess FEP is comparing the boy, whose name is Samuel, to a person in Dublin, following mamma's wishes.}

{#38. Sudden death of Mrs. Betton. Dresden. Dresden March 21. }
Dresden
March 21. 1859.

My dear papa,

I received your letter of Thursday this morning. All the difficulty about room in the new house has been settled by a most melancholy event. Mrs.

Betten is dead. I saw her and her son coming out of the church yesterday week; on Monday evening she was sitting quite quietly when all of a sudden she turned deadly pale and began to talk in such a way as to leave no doubt of her brain being affected and on Friday evening she died! Is it not a melancholy story? What the father and son are going to do the Baron does not know and of course cannot ask them at present, but at all events I am now sure of a room. Mrs. B. had always been in delicate health, but still nothing unusual. According to the present state of politics, I should think my movements in the summer must be rather problematical, everyone here expects war some sooner, some later. It sounds so odd to hear the Baroness quietly talking about having officers quartered in the house - N.B. They have been in two revolutions in different towns and have often had officers quartered upon them and on one occasion soldiers.

French I am working at with M. Comte, but as to speaking it and German at the same time, it is impossible, it is hard to imagine two languages more opposed, however that does not prevent my reading and writing it, the last I find very hard; whenever I want to speak the French, out comes the German which as far as the words that I know are concerned seems quite natural. Classics I could not study at present without neglecting my other masters, for I am absolutely working all my time for these, except what is required for writing letters and walking. Recollect that breakfast takes 1 hour dinner 1½ or 2 and supper from 7.30 till 10. This however is time well spent as I am speaking or hearing German all the time instead of English as a Hughes. Drawing is the only thing I could leave off and my master is such a good and pleasant one that it would be a pity to do so. It is a thing though at which I never can be a proficient through want of taste for it, and more than all my bad sight, which goes against me in everything and particularly in drawing and fencing. Uncle J. is anxious for me to begin mathematics but I cannot do everything at once. When the weather improves I shall be able to have my riding and gymnastic lessons an hour earlier which will give more time. I went to the Grosser Gartens to day to look for uncle J. and hit on him by the merest chance in a back walk, he said that there was nothing more in his letter than in mine. I dined with him yesterday and after dinner we went in and paid a visit to Mrs. Whittle and saw the Allens there.

I met Captain Montgomery also yesterday evening and had a talk with him about the Saxon Switzerland which he praises very much. I forgot to ask him if it was equal to Donegal The having to pay for the delivery of letters here is a great nuisance 3 pfennige for each letter (3 pfennige are somewhat less than a halfpenny). These aforesaid pfennige are a shocking bother themselves two - 9 make one penny! one never knows what to do with them and they are very much used. They have also got Austrian florins in circulation here (value the same as with us) and also Saxon and Prussian 10 groschen (1/) pieces which are almost exactly the same size; this is caused by the superior purity of the Austrian silver. I have seen no gold but there is some gold in circulation. The notes of from every value from 3/ upwards are very convenient indeed, but not so the heavy Thalers (3/) which are almost as bad a 5/ piece with us. I hear that the soldiers here are getting double drill and exercise all day long with their rifles at the other side of the Neu Stadt. What is uncle

George about? I have not heard of him for an age. I am afraid Charly I. will never have a months health while he is in his present office, I always thought so from the first indeed, as you may remember.

{Cancelled out, partly in German script:} Sie haben ein großes buch und ich hoffe nicht daß Sie wünschen Mr W. so sehr gern sie wohnen in Westmorelandstraße.{End of cancelled part}

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. I had inadvertently written some German there which as far as I can now make out has no earthly sense, I am nearly tumbling asleep over this 12:15 _a.m._

{"on Friday evening she died": the official record says Saturday, 21.03.1859.

The purpose of the German part is to demonstrate the writer's ability to write in German script, not exactly "inadvertently". The last part translates "... they live in Westmoreland Street"; such a street exists in Dublin, not in Germany.}

{#39. 'Map-travelling.' with the Baron Von S. Long to be off to Prague March 27. }
Dresden
March 27. 1859.

My dear papa,

Since I last wrote we have had a great change in the weather, viz. the ground covered with snow and a pretty hard frost; the snow only lay a few hours but it has made the air very cold and Dresden is in a shocking state of dirt. To day it appears very cold and occasional showers of snow-sleet fall. Otherwise there is nothing new. Since Wednesday - this being Sunday - the only English I have spoken was a few words to uncle Jeffry yesterday - what a difference from Hughs's! Indeed the only English I speak is when I see uncle Jeffry which is generally for an hour or so every second day. The Thompsons (C^o. Antrim) are going home immediately and have their furniture auction on Tuesday at which the Seckendorffs intend to buy some articles. They have been here three years for the education of their children. Young Boytno too is going to England at Easter; he was here before Christmas and can hardly speak two words of German, which comes from his living with his family, where of course no German whatever is spoken. Miss Taylor and Miss Thompson left on Friday for Rome, on the preceding Friday two Miss Forbes friends of uncle J. left for the same destination; They were going to travel the whole way to Venice (per rail) without stopping! 2½ days I think it is. Mrs. Whittle and the Allens I am afraid will soon be en route for northern Italy and the Tyrol. Everybody is on the move and I shall not be sorry when I am en route for Prague and northern Bohemia. From what I hear I am inclined to think that Northern Lombardy - the lakes I mean - and the Tyrol are as well worth, or better, seeing than Switzerland, The Baron says that he never knew a country more thoroughly spoiled than it is by the English

and tourists generally. Every one speaks of the Italian lakes as something indescribable. It seems so odd to be within a couple of days of everything. Switzerland France Italy Venice Hungary; and even Poland is not 24 hours from Dresden! I intend to invest a few shillings in a pocket compass (a card compass) which is a kind of thing to be had cheap and good here. The night before last the two young Ss. had gone out to a party, and I happening to talk about maps to the Baron he produced a gigantic atlas of Germany over which we sat for an hour and a half, I getting lots of picknigs out of him about the various parts. He has nearly the same mania for maps that I have.

Is there the remotest chance of my hearing from uncle Frank? Uncle Joe I have not written to or heard from for some time so I must try and make him up a letter some day soon. Uncle Jeffry has just got a large historical atlas of Europe which I think you would like very much, but apparently very good and proportionably dear. The universal feeling of liking for Austria which seems to prevail here surprises me very much, I had always thought that they were universally disliked, but it seems that the Prussians come nearer to this description.

Do you ever think of coming on the continent in summer?

I am very sorry that my passport was not visé'd for all possible countries before leaving England, it saves endless bother and I imagine is the cheapest in the end - for instance to go into Bohemia I shall require two or three visés here, a new passport I hear all which trouble would have been saved by having one Austrian signature in England - and so with other countries. 28th. Your letter of 25th came this evening. I had also one from uncle Joe which you may mention in your next to him. Also a note from aunt Eliza viâ Carola Strasse. Do you generally post your letters to me before or after 12 noon? and when do you usually get mine?

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#40. Uncle Jeffry and Aunt Marg.t going to Hamburg. A burst of Spring.
Dresden March 28. }
Dresden.
March 28. 1859

My dear mamma,

Since I began my letter to papa the weather has again changed and to day it was cloudless and quite warm. Yours of the 25th came this evening enclosing one of grandmamma's for which I am very much obliged to her. Keep her and aunt Nannie (and aunt Flora too for that matter) up to writing as often as convenient to me. Thank Aunt Flora for her present. I do not want any of my money at present my wants indeed are few and far between. Aunt Margaret was at Mrs. Whittles. By the way uncle Jeffry and she are going to Hamburg for a few days; they go on Wednesday and will be back before that day week. I have not been at Hughe's for an age, but I hear that there is a new Frenchman there, I met the Swiss in the G. Gartens to day. Tell uncle F. that time or no time the must write

me a letter on the subject of the new Liverpool steamer that has been put on between Belfast, Queenstown and America The boat "City of Manchester" is, as I best remember, a first class steamer. If it succeeds I think one is likely to be put on between Dublin, Queenst. and America. I went off to my gymnastics at 7 this morning and enjoyed the fine morning very much. None of the trees here are green yet but some of lilacs and other shrubs are very respectably out. The larks too are singing as if they were trying to split their throats. Yesterday I took a tolerably long walk and got wet coming home There are now only two roads from Dresden which I have not expored but I shall soon knock them off. I find my pocket glass a great luxury, I wish I had had it last summer. The people here are all taking out the outside frames of the double windows and some already getting the green jalousies in their place. The Sidonien Strasse is fearful even now of a hot day and in summer it must be unendurable.

Tell uncle Charles and the boys that I wish they would give me a line, I wish I had Georgy here to accompany me in my walks. I have already given you my direction on and after the 4.th April. What news from Magherafelt? I think I will finish this now, as it is 11.50 p.m. and I must be in the riding-school at 8 tomorrow

Francis E. Prendergast

{Sidonien-Straße: connecting FEP's and Uncle Jeffry's abodes, east to west. No buildings yet on the southern side, hence not much shade.}

{#41. Headache. Walked it off in a 25 mile walk. Dresden. April 1st. and 2d. }

Dresden

April 1.st 1859.

My dear papa,

Since your letter which came on Monday I have not heard from Tower Terrace which rather surprizes 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 coul't 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, stayed out all day (9 hours or more) and walked at least 25 miles much to the detriment of my feet which were covered 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 till Wednesday at soonest - probably Thursday, as there is a great deal of cleaning &c to be done. I dined with uncle Jeffry 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. To day also it has been pretty cold, a little hail but no frost. These sudden changes are anythin but agreeable here,

and most people have something or other the matter with them. The ball season 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 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 where there are many English boys (he is often on Sunday 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. Mr. Ensell told me that this would be the case, but I could not believe him at the time.

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 magnesia water I dare say I shall be all right on Monday. I shall not say anything about our movint 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 say 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 Saxon Switzerland can be seen in 2 days, but I doubt it, you must not imagine that the mountains are any way 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 the index map of Down is either at Rostrevor 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 - certainly 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 tra and write again as soon as possible.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Catherine Whittle is about to leave the city for good to follow her husband James to the castle in Bavaria he has recently bought. Therefore she arranges the auction of the couple's furniture in Lüttichaustraße. On her way to the Bodensee she will make a side tour to her beloved northern Italy, as we read above.}

{#42. Allens; Beauclerks. See butterfly, "the Camberack Beauty". April 2.
}

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 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 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 brown paper or something very like it. Uncle J. gets all his shoes from Hamburg. There was a Miss Ferrier (English) here to tea last night; she is well acquainted with the C^o Down(!) and knew all about the Hamilton Beauclercs &c. That is in her capacity as a governess. There is a Miss Beauclercs 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 Antiopa, 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 on all the houses here seem very tastefully 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 sending 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.

{#43. Country walk with the Von Seckendorf family Dresden. Ap. 4. }

Dresden.

Monday. April 4. 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 Briesenitz, 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 Beterbourg, (so pronounced) about 2 miles off, and afterwards went on further with young S., 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 Dresdeners to talk about at last,

viz. a young Frenchman shot himself in the Grosser Gartens 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 in the third floor of the Victoria Hotel. One of young S's friends was going by, it is situated in a crowded 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 an hospital and lived many hours. Is not that a good chapter of accidents 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 Jeffry will be back to morrow or next day, and I shall have a consultation with him immediately about who is the best classical master to be had here; the invariable result of these conferences is that he invites me and Dr. Deiler 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 S'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 this stupid Hogarth saw in the Times the death of some Prendergast in London, and immediately jumped to the conclusion it must be him.

I have not been at Hughe'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 S. and the Boytons. The price of all the concerts is only 3d. 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 Dresden is something prodigious, and though the Saxon is certainly a beer drinking animal, the amount of beer drunk here is really not so much. One occasionally sees a fellow a little elevated with the beer, but I have not seen one drunken man since I came to Dresden. 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.

{Briesenitz: recte Briesnitz.

Arthur's father is Harris Prendergast, we will meet him below alive, but widowed on 25.04.1859 - a bad omen? The following may be what Hogarth has read, about one of the hosts of Prendergasts not closely related to ours: "March 20. At Highgate-rise, after a short illness, Michael Prendergast, esq., Q.C., Recorder of Norwich, and Judge of the Sherrif's Court"}

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 grandmamma 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 find 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 wide-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, - whatever it may be - we all will dine at the Poole who have been kind enough to ask us all to dinner on that day, so as to obviate the difficulty of 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 Chesney) was supposed to be about 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 - clutchint 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 2½ 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 any letters in pieces - a sheet or so at a time, but this week I have to pack u my traps which takes a little time away. Would you belive it, I got all my books packed in 20 minutes this morning? Indeed I think in less.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#44. Uncle Jeffry with Aunt M. and Mrs. Aufrère back from Hamburg.

Headaches Dresden. Ap. 6. }

Dresden

April 6. 1859.

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 Jeffry who has come back from Hamburg all right, and Mrs O'Frere and Miss Preusser will be here tomorrow, per midday train. We are still here in Räcknitzer Strasse 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 Jeffry says that he (see what some 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 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 a small railway runs along it and much improves 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 Lexicon as a double looking 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 about cured my headache at 11 we had a dinner luncheon as we are going to dine with the Pooles at 5 oclock. I am now going out to the G. G. to meet uncle Jeffry aunt M. and (probably) Mrs. O'Frere and I shall try and finish this to night.

Friday. I saw uncle Jeffry and aunt M. in the G. G. yesterday but Mrs. O'Frere was tired with her journey and had stayed at home, Miss Preusser 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 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 unaccountable manner.

Francis. E. Prendergast.

{"Mrs. O'Frere": Caroline Aufrère, Margaret Prendergast's sister from Bowness-on-Windermere. The misspelling is certainly due to FEP's relying on spoken information without asking for the correct spelling, as we have seen with the "Pooles" and others.}

{#45. Dinner at the Pöels: They are Russo-German. Dresden. Ap 7. }
Dresden.
Thursday April 7 1859.

My dear mamma

We have at last got some fine weather again, which is very lucky on account of the moving, it is to be on Saturday and this morning some of the furniture was removed. I expect to get the parcel this evening as Mrs. O'Frere is probably here now and Miss Preusser is to be with her. I shall have only one envelope remaining after I despatch this so that your supply will be very acceptable, my paper too is just out so I must

get a fresh supply, what I expected to last more than 6 months has only lasted 2½! Envelopes, sealing-wax, soap and one or two other articles of the same nature I strongly advise being brought from England. The German sealing wax is execrable and the Seckendorffs were in great admiration of my English sealingwax; the seals themselves too are anything but well cut. I think you and grandmama would like the plan for taking cattle through the streets here, they have a chain halter and ring through the nose generally but the grand contrivance is this; there is a strong girth round the animal with an iron ring at the lowest part through this a double cord goes which is fastened to the fetlocks so that if the animal runs away the man has only to pull the cord and the animal comes down on its nose. This of course would not do with a large herd as every beast must have a man.

Friday. To day is again most lovely weather and is a great Holyday or rather Holy-day in Germany and it is strictly forbidden to work. Nevertheless I have had my gymnastic lesson and will have a German lesson in the Evening. We were at the Pooles last night - Poël is the name I believe - and they gave us a very good dinner, all the young ladies _smoke_, what would you think if you saw a pretty young lady of 23 with a cigarette in her mouth puffing away as hard as she can? I hear that the mother - a most agreeable ladylike person - and the two eldest daughters smoke almost incessantly. They all draw very nicely and I hear play and sing well also, they are more German than Russian by birth but all their ideas and customs are Russian witness smoking, they have also got a samovar which was the first I had ever seen, it is nearly identical with our tea-urn; they seem to drink no wine whatever but they make for it by drinking tea in a way that would beat Bridget hollow. The only stranger who was there was a German named Hartmann. My next letter will be from the new quarters. Nothing from the Glenties as yet.

Francis. E. Prendergast.

{parcel: Annette Preusser has fulfilled her errand as described in the above letter of March 14.}

{#46. The Seckendorfs change their house: plan of the new one Dresden.
Ap. 10. }
Dresden
12 g Prager St.
April 10.th 1859.

My dear mamma

We are in the new house at last and I forward you a plan with explanation on the back. I shall make out another of my room and send it as soon as I can. The present plan is far from correct as my room is nearly square and Miss S's is much larger in reality, she and the Baron are to live in the 3d floor hereafter; the kitchen is below stairs. The number of _Doors_ must appear very strange to you but they are not more numerous than is usual in Dresden. The Barons intention is to have three or 4 young Englishmen somewhat a la Hughe's in course of time. Your German G is very

creditable, but it looks somewhat shaky in comparison with the English
Could you not make it so - G

Here are railway times fares and distances that you wished to know.
Dresden to Prague (118 miles) 2d class 11/6. 3 trains daily. Dresden to
Vienna distance 270 miles 2d class £ 1..14s time 20 hours. Vienna to Buda
(Pesth) 2d class 19/ distance 170 miles time 10 hours. Is that
sufficient? I consider that any time spent at Dresden after I have got
some idea of German would be wasted and that if I am to stay (residing)
after the summer in Germany that some of the southern cities would be
more advantageous though some other country would be better still. I
think that if I am to travel in the summer I would lose a great deal of
the pleasure of travelling. I wish very much that uncle Charles would
send Georgy here to the Baron's for a month or so in summer and then
let him come with me. In spite of all his boyish ways he has more common
sense than most young people and of all young people I know I would
sooner have him as a companion than anyone else that I know - always
excepting Jack. Suppose you suggested it to uncle Charles? I really am in
earnest about this. Your packet came all safe yesterday. Miss Preusser
sent it in to uncle Jeffry and he sent it in to me. How do you like this
upright writing? I shall try to have this ready to send off to morrow
morning as I go from my French master to the drawing.

I have not got my room quite in order yet, but I think very little more
can be done to it. I do not think that Mrs. O'Frere has much of aunt
Margarets appearance but still I can see some. I was out at Lockwitz
(about 5 miles off) on Friday evening, but not having a minute of spare
time, and not knowing anything about the Preussers I did not call. I
suppose I shall be starting on my tour some time next week but nothing is
settled yet however I shall write as soon as I am certain about it. To
day has been fine but showery.

Francis E Prendergast.

Here are a few of my hairs from which you will see what a
variety I have

{The house is fairly new and belongs to an Ernst Wolf. Seckendorffs rent
the ground floor, previously occupied by another retired officer; Wolf
lives one higher; there are two more floors.

"German G": the writer's new address "Prager Str. 12g" has already been
known to and used by his mother. Using German script is not really
required; in it, "g" and "G" are mainly distinguished by their vertical
sizes. Generally, lower-case letters after house numbers, starting
alphabetically from "a", are used for newer buildings behind older ones,
when the path leading to them is not found worthy of a name of its own.}

{#47. Gymnastics. Approaching tour. Dresden. Ap. 10. }

Dresden

12G Prager St.

9.30 a.m.

Sunday, April 10. 1859

My dear papa

We are at last fixed here after a good deal of trouble with the moving. My room is somewhat larger than my old one, and even already I am beginning to think that I shall like it as well or better. I have got the morning sun until 10.30 or 11 oclock which is a thing I am very fond of. I got your 2 last letters at the same time on Friday last. I think I am all right again but this now roast, now freeze weather is anything but conducive to health. The 9 days that uncle J. was away I did not speak any English which is the longest time I have yet been so, but I am afraid that my progress in reading and writing it does not correspond with the speaking, but I have several times had to write notes to my masters. The French that I am learning now I look upon more as a help to learning it hereafter, for the little German I knew before I came made an immense difference. Yesterday as I was settling my room I heard a great deal of talking apparently English and German at the Hall door and presently the Baroness knocked at my door and asked me to come and interpret, this was young Boyton who had come to look for Adolf. Though he has been here since (& before) Christmas he could not make himself understood and the Baroness does not understand a word of anything but German and French. I shall make inquiries about a horse but I should not fancy riding alone, and there is nobody who rides here that I should care to be with. At the gymnastics we have some horses for vaulting rings for for swinging horizontal ladders, ditto sloping, bars, parallel bars and ropes for climbing. I do not know whether I ever told you that he does not profess to teach feats, but only what tends to strengthen the body. I can vault over the horse as high as my shoulder, which is the highest he has. He has never more than one at a time, so I never can have company. He is the only teacher here. I do not know what coat I shall walk in, the black venetian is the only one that would do as the shooting coat is not adapted for walking and is too tight across the chest. I think that perhaps the best thing I can do would be to get one of the 9/6 frieze upa's such as I mentioned.

Jacks tandem drive is beyond my comprehension for I am sure we had work enough with one horse in the little bit of the way we went.

Francis E. Prendergast

{#48. View from 'the Golden Height'. The baroness going to Ebersdorf to put her son to School. Ap. 14 }

Dresden

April 14. 1859

My dear Papa

I went out yesterday evening for a walk and got as far as the Golden Height which lies about 5 miles to the south from whence there is a splendid (for the vicinity of Dresden I mean) view down towards Bohemia and the Erz Mountains, or rather hills; the country round Dresden is every where ruined by coal works, which are absolutely everywhere, on the tops of hills in valleys in the plains - everywhere in short. On

returning I found your letter of the ninth and also a terrific packet from uncle Frank. The coat which I mentioned as only costing 9/ (not 11/) is not a shooting coat, but is a short coat of brown frieze with green stand up collar and buttoning loosely from the throat to the bottom, I think I heard that it is of Bohemian or Hungarian origin.

Miss Preusser I have not yet seen nor do I expect to see her very soon.

This house is very comfortable and as far as I am concerned a great improvement for me, as my room is better and larger, but I suspect that it will not be so convenient for the Baron and his family. This morning they have been hanging a bookcase and a picture in my room. I am now quite settled and what is better I am all square again. This morning it is snowing raining and blowing in a way that would put December to shame, and the unlucky Baroness who has been rather unwell after the tumult of moving must go off tomorrow morning with her youngest son to the Moravian settlement at Ebersdorf near Gera, a long days journey from this, she is going to leave this son at school with the Moravians there and to bring home another son who is going to enter the Polytechnic here. In the 2nd volume of uncle Welds American travels, near the end I think, you will find an account of a Moravian settlement, and from what I have heard from the Baroness, who was educated by the Moravians, I think they seem to be pretty much the same everywhere. I do not know precisely on what day we shall be going off on our tour but it will be next week, nor do I know how long we shall be away certainly not over a fortnight. I am afraid that he (young S) seems rather doubtful about going with me to Prague (on the score of money I suspect) but if he will not come so far I should be inclined to go alone (per Rail) if you thought well of it, for a couple of days, but I hope to succeed in getting him to come. I shall get the 9/ coat as soon as possible for I want some such thing for fencing and riding as the shooting coat is too tight and warm and the black is too good.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Miss Preusser I have not yet seen nor do I expect to see her very soon." : this must be the reply to some remark or question by JPP, such as "What is your impression of Miss Preusser?". The lady is of some importance to JPP; much more so to Jeffrey and aunt Margaret, of course. Ebersdorf: village, later part of Saalburg-Ebersdorf in Thuringia, near to the homes of the Baron's siblings. The boys mentioned must be Arthur and either Oscar or Robert jr. Moravians: Moravian Church, "Herrnhuter Brüdergemeinde"; in Germany the relationship to the mainstream protestant denominations varies between assumed compatibility and sharp opposition. The school is called "Möller'sches Institut", teaching language is of course German.}

{#49. Dine with Uncle Jeffrey; and to to Theatre. Ap 14 }
Dresden.
April 14. 1859

My dear Mamma

I am beginning this in a furious hurry as uncle Jeffry has just sent me a note saying that they are going to dine at 3.30 and going to the Theatre afterwards and asking me to come with them, and my French master will be here in a few minutes and I am in tremendous hurry so as to get everything done which must account for this bad writing. I am all right again - at least I think so, so you may make your mind easy about me. I believe that Mr. Ensell really intends to write to me but at the same time I believe he will not write, nor do I imagine that he will get his pupils to form a class.

I have also just got per uncle Jeffry a note from aunt Eliza at Pondwell all well. - My French master has just taken his departure and I am waiting for the announcement of dinner, for the Seckendorffs would not rest easy in their graves if I was not at table at one oclock, though I must dine again at 3.30! I am very jolly in my new quarters here and whenever I can find a little spare time - which most certainly I shall not in this week - I will send you a pan of my room. I never saw anything so nice as the Pigeons here, they are so tame that you might kick them if you liked, and you never by any chance see boys throwing stones at them. Return my thanks to uncle Frank for his gigantic package which came to hand yesterday, I shall answer in due course of time but I owe a fearful quantity of letters at present, Jack uncle Joe uncle Willy uncle Frank aunt Eliza and I don't know who besides. I have not seen any butterflies since, nor is the snow that we had this morning likely to bring more soon. Mrs. Aufrère has not much resemblance to aunt Margaret except in size and voice, the last is almost identical. The fruit trees here are all in blossom and as almost all are fruit trees and every road has a row at each side they make a great show.

I took a very pleasant 3 hours walk yesterday, and the day, without being warm was particularly fine. Did I tell you that uncle Jeffry had brought me a very nice cane stick from Hamburg? it is too short for my fancy but I think it would be the very thing for Papa.

I shall write again as soon as I can to make up for this short letter.

Francis E. Prendergast

{"nor do I imagine that he will get his pupils to form a class": this may mean that Ensell is a typical scatty clergyman who doubles as an elementary teacher without proper training, and tends to deal with one pupil at a time while the rest of the class does not pay attention. Cf. June 17 below.

Mrs. Aufrère: FEP's mother has mentioned the correct spelling and asked for a physical description.}

{#50. Description of Mrs. Aufrère. Dresden. Ap 18 }
Dresden
April 18. 1859

My dear Mamma

Your letter enclosing Marys came along with that enclosing Jacks, and is such a long time past that I had answered it before I got your query about it. You wonder who the _5_ letters could be to, they were to uncles Frank, Willie and Joe, Mary and Jack. Mrs. Aufrère is somewhat like aunt Elizabeth in ways and appearance and looks 15 years younger than aunt Margaret. I am rather curious about this young Miss Pager, I hope that she may make her way to the Rowleys if suitable. I should think that they were almost more in want of an _educated companion with ladylike manners_ than a governess, for which she would apparently be the very thing.

I do not think that there is any steamer _whatever_ that goes between this and Hamburg, but there are plenty of barges which go and take 2 months to get there and about twice as much to come back. The purse I think _decidedly_ unsafe whatever it may be in theory, and I shall try and find one like my own here. The sovereign was all safe. Please give or send the enclosed to uncle Willie, in the next will be one for Jack, so you might have a letter ready to send him. Two of Hugh's fellows are gone (Smith and Etlinger) so I suppose there will be some new arrivals there soon, he has got a young Guardsman named Burnaby since I left.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. if you want to be _very correct_ in addressing letters you must put the number _last_ Thus

Prager Strasse. 12.G.

which is the German style.

{Mrs. Aufrère again: Obviously everything else worth knowing about the lady is already known in Dublin from Jeffry's letters, but FEP is the only one, if anybody, to have a comparison to a personal acquaintance of the addressees. He obliges his mother's wish without taking any interest of his own.

"aunt Elizabeth": perhaps uncle Charles Ensor's wife Elizabeth Caroline née Howard, who will eventually have 15 children - Caroline Aufrère none.}

{#51. Walking tour to Prague put off. Adolphe Von S. has all leisure.
Dresden Ap. 18. }
Dresden.
April 18. 1859

My dear Papa

Yours of the 15th, with note for uncle Jeffry enclosed, came this afternoon, but I am sorry to say that our walking trip to Prague has fallen to the ground and will end in a 3 or 4 days trip in the Saxon Switzerland, as young S. will at no time be able to be away from Dresden for more than 5 days, if so much, however after this, as I said before I should be inclined to take a run down to Prague alone for a couple of days; or perhaps you might also think it adviseable for me to take a run

up to Berlin for a few days while the time allows of it (it is 6 hours only) or you might perhaps suggest some other place. The Baron is wishing to get another young fellow as soon as possible; he will have nothing but English (_Irish_ not objected to) as he says he does not want to have anything to say to Americans; it will make a considerable difference to me whoever comes, and I wish I was sure of getting some agreeable person. Do you happen to know of anybody?

You say you thought that no European ladies smoked, but surely those of Spain do, as well as the Russians.

The weather for the past three days has been very disagreeable, a constant cold north-west wind with occasional showers of hail and snow.

I took my last drawing lesson today and was not at all sorry that it was the last, except that I was sorry to leave Krieble who is really a very nice fellow, as the Germans go. I have long been wanting a good German book to read, as Schiller is not much in my line and I can't stand the petty little German novels and have invested 10/ in a book of Travels in two octavo volumes which had been recommended to me by my German master, as being very amusing, good German and not difficult. I had been labouring under the impression that I could badly read any German at all but I find it much easier than I was aware of. I am translating parts of Middleton's Cicero into German, but as you may imagine it is rather difficult.

The uncles have been pelting uncle J. to a most fearful extent with the extract from the Mail about Algeo. They have already sent through me 4! all exactly the same and direct the has got 2 of the same!!!

I have been reading in a German book of travels a most flourishing account of Chilé and the natives. By the way the title of my new purchase is Geographische Wanderungen von Dr. Andree 1859. They are travels in almost every part of the world.

Tell uncle Frank that I shall begin to make him up a long letter immediately, but not now as it is 11.15 p.m. and I was up at 7 a.m. this morning

Francis E Prendergast

{#52. Long walk through losing the way. Ap 20. 21. }
Dresden
April 20th 1859.

My dear papa,

Yesterday I took the most tremendouw walk I ever was in my life, and hope I may never have to take such a one again. Immediately after dinner - at 2.10 - I started off intending to walk to Pillnitz, which lies upon the Elbe about 7 or 8 miles off, I walked on and on, enjoying tha fineness of the day and the the magnificent view which extended over the Saxon Switzerland and far into Bohemia, and having walked on at my 4 miles an

hour for 2½ hours and having lost sight of the Elbe, I began to think I could not be on the right road, and on studying the map I found I was about 9 miles from Dresden and 4 or 5 from Pillnitz, well up in the country in fact; the following will give you some idea of it

{Map drawing indicating that he had gone straight eastwards on the "Road to Stolpen", called Bautzener Landstraße, and thus left the northern bank of the Elbe. Weissig is indeed north of Pillnitz, but with hills in between not allowing straight roads. We already guess what will happen ...}

I was at Weissig and thought it would be quite easy to get down to Pillnitz, cross the ferry and come home the direct way, but when I had got about halfway down I got bewildered by the many field roads and regularly lost my way. Pleasant this, with the consciousness of being 9 or 10 miles from Dresden at 6 o'clock and the certainty of having to walk every inch of the way! However at last I hit on a glimpse of the Elbe and immediately made the best way I could to it, which luckily was pretty straight, and there pursued my way along the Elbe without troubling my head any more about Pillnitz, and got home at 8.10 having been walking 6 hours without once stopping.

I had asked my way several times but the only person who could give me any information was a toothless old man whom I could hardly understand. I was, as you may imagine, pretty well done, and what was still worse could not sleep; strange to say it was my arms that were tired and not my legs. I shall certainly take good care another time how I leave the high road at any distance from Dresden. I am not tired this morning nor have I a single blister which proves that I must be in pretty good condition. Tell uncle Joe of this unintentional walk. According to my measurement on the Map it would be about 21 miles which I suppose is about what it was.

21st. I am going to give up English reading i.e. as much as possible and read nothing but German; every one tells me it would double the rate of my progress, and I can often read and understand pages without using a dictionary. The grand point is to get to think in German which I already partially do. I must get some lighter clothing soon, for, with the exception of waistcoats, all my rig is winter costume. I have never needed no coat so much as the old paletot, certainly it was a well invested £ 2. for it has lasted 3 (or 4 is it?) years and is as good as ever. I wish I could find some light, thin, and hard stuff for summer trousers, like those I had in Donegal. I wish also I could find somebody to take walking trips with, for though I know plenty of fellows here I like none of them, with the exception of young Boyton, and he is going home immediately.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"going home immediately": to study in Cambridge, Magdalene College: "William Boyton, son of a Donegal clergyman, who was formally reprimanded by the Fellows of Magdalene for 'certain irregularities against the College discipline' in December 1860." The family is not registered in the Dresden directory; they may be living here only temporarily for

William's sake. On June 22, we will find them in a villa near Radebeul, 6 km downstream.}

{#53. The 'travel-fever.' Walk through the Pine Woods to north of Dresden: 'Brimstone' butterfly. Dresden. Ap. 21. }

Dresden

April 20th. 1859.

My dear mamma

I have been sewing on some buttons lately and found that you had given me an immense stick of white thread but only one small cardfull of black, which is the cause of what I wrote at outside my last letter. I study my maps a great deal to see where there is a possibility of going if wars break out with violence I feel as if I must travel in the summer, come what will; as the weather gets finer I am gradually getting what the Germans call "Reise-fieber" or travel fever, which has not been lessened by some books (German) of Travels which I have been reading, particularly one about South America, in which there are glowing descriptions of Chil  and the beauty of the Andes with their white snow and the blue Pacific in the distance. In my walk yesterday I had some splendid views, but unfortunately there was a blue haze which prevented my seeing as far as the actual range of the eye. The parts through which I walked were very much like parts of the I. ov Wight about Godshill and thereaway, only without the hedges and with pine forests. To the north of Dresden the forests extend a very long way and the trees are all pines; the smell and noise coming from these is very pleasant and tranquillising, but they stop up the views considerably. I saw two butterflies both little tortoise-shells and great numbers of larks, chaffinches and starlings You never give me any information now a-days about the Galway or Belfast & Queenstown lines. I wish you would tell me something about them every now and then. i am greatly surprized at the numbers of Russian and Polish books one sees here, and you will see most of the Laquais-de Places advertised as speaking Russian or Polish. In the north of Saxony about Bautzen, are remnants of a tribe of Vandals, they are called Wends and speak a language which has not the least affinity to German, the women are much sought after as nursery maids. Think of this tribe being within 25 miles of Dresden! Again in Bohemia they speak another language (a Slavonic dialect I think) totally different from German, and again the Hungarian is quite different from this. On the coasts of the Baltic about Riga and Reval they speak a language called Lettish and which has only a faint resemblance to Russian. Did you ever think there was such a lot of languages in Europe, and it is only of central Europe that I have spoken?

21st. This morning it was very fine and afterdinner I took a walk of about 8 miles or so but the day being very hot I did not feel inclined to go very far particularly as I saw a thunderstorm coming up and which is now just beginning. I saw a Brimstone Butterfly (see "Blue Book" on title page) another which I could not make out, and a yellow-hammer. Do you keep my letters anyway regularly? If you do I should wish you to keep them carefully as I have no time for writing a journal or diary and they would be nearly as good. I had a letter from uncle Joe this evening, in which he suggests the possibility of my making a trip to Vienna. On my

walk out this evening I met Mr. Dale and walked with him for about half an hour. (will be posted 22nd).

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#54. Visit to Berlin. Berlin Ap 26 }
{Easter Sunday is April 24; schools and other institutions tend to close down for a week or two. FEP does not depend on such institutions directly, but some of his teachers may be absent, so that he has a good excuse for travelling himself.}

Berlin.

2.30 p.m. April 26 1859.

My dear Papa

I suppose you will be rather surprised to see the heading of this letter, as I have gone in exactly the opposite direction to the one you supposed I was going in. I had a great deal of talk with uncle Jeffry on Sunday and he recommended me not to lose the opportunity of seeing Berlin. Accordingly on Monday I got my passport, & Prussian money from uncle J. and left this morning (Tuesday) at 7.15 a.m. and arrived here at 1.30. I am in the Victoria Hotel, Unter den Linden and am now writing this while waiting for the table d'hôte at 3 o'clock I shall be back in Dresden on Friday at noon - possibly on Thursday. I have got to see the Museums, Picture Gallery, Potsdam, the Theatre and the city itself. The country between this and Dresden is very flat and uninteresting but Berlin itself from what I have seen out of the cab seems very fine indeed - this street - Unter den Linden - is nearly as wide as Sackville st., and one of the adjacent ones it more than two miles long. I do not know how the expences will be, but uncle Jeffry said he thought they could not be more than £ 4. or £ 4.10. I this is the case i hope to be in Prague next Sunday or at all events in the Saxon Switzerland.

Tell mamma I have brought her purse with me to give it a trial. I have got with me 40 thalers = about £ 6, which uncle J. said I had better take in case of contingencies.

4.15 p.m. I have just come from the table d'hôte which was a very good one, there were about 40 people and all - except two - of those I could hear spoke French and even the waiters answered in French I am going out to look about the place now and shall probably go to the theatre as the best way of passing the evening.

I have not seen such a lively place since I left England - people seem to be living for something which is certainly more than they do in Dresden.

I see omnibuses going about at a smart rate and apparently full, droshchies here too go about in a more buisoness like manner. If I can manage it I think I shall return to Dresden on Thursday and be off to Prague or the S. S. on Friday or Saturday. I have had no trouble about my passport and the first person who asked for it was the waiter here. I

hear everybody talking about "Troops" "ordered to march" "Engländer"
"Piemont" "Turin" but I don't suppose that there is anything really new.

I wish I had got young S. or somebody to poke about with here, but as I
have not I shall have to do without him. I am still hoping to get him to
Prague with me but nothing is certain; probably by the time you get this
I shall be either there or on my way.

Francis E Prendergast.

{Jeffry had spent some time in Berlin back in January/February 1827,
before moving to Hamburg. We know this from a short note he had sent to
his study mate William Henry Fox Talbot.

Sackville street: now O'Connell Street, in Dublin, of course.

Troops etc.: Second Italian War of Independence, see Wikipedia.}

{#55. Account of Berlin. Finish letter in train returning to Dresden. Ap.
27-29 }

Berlin

9.30 a.m. Wednesday April 27 1859.

My dear Papa

I am writing this in the coffee room after a very good breakfast of
coffee and rolls. I walked about the town yesterday evening till 5.45,
when I went to the theatre, but was told every place had been full for a
quarter of an hour, so I went off again. It was the _90th_ representation
of the opera "the Huguenots." I then walked outside the town in some
public gardens, listening to organs played by old pensioners; these
gardens are the nicest I think I ever saw, and though not 10 minutes walk
from the centre of this side of the city, yet there are woodguests there!
I then came home about 7.30 and got some tea and went to bed at about 10.
This morning I was awakened at about 6 by military music, and on looking
out saw two regiments marching down the street, presently more came
making the house shake, these were the artillery. "Bools" came in
shortly, and on my asking him, he said they were going out to exercise. I
am greatly surprised at the French I hear - every well dressed person
seems to speak it, and at this moment there is a gentleman here speaking
to the waiter in French. The people are the liveliest and best looking of
any I have yet seen, somewhat English in appearance and with a vivacity
that is quite astounding after the sluggishness of the Dresdeners. The
shops are very fine, and the streets wide and well paved all running at
right angles which _looks_ very well but is rather monotonous.

The number of public buildings is very remarkable and many are _very_
handsome. On the whole it gives me the idea of a very large, (population
is 350,000) handsome and flourishing city, with plenty of amusement and
business going on. I attempted to walk down the renowned Frederick
Strasse yesterday evening, but after having walked on for 10 minutes and
not seeming to be any nearer the end than on first entering it, I gave it
up as a hopeless case; this too was only _one half_ of the street that I
was in.

2 p.m. I have just come back, having been walking about since 10.30 and am more than ever impressed with the magnificence and splendour of Berlin.

I determined to walk the whole length of Frederick St. and see how long it took to walk it, I went my usual pace and was exactly three quarters of an hour in going from one end to the other There are handsome shops with large plate glass windows nearly the whole way, and the whole street is well built. I had taken it for granted that this street was an exception, but I have been in dozens as fine, or finer, only not quite so long. Handsome equipages may be seen driving about everywhere, and the streams of well dressed people look very cheerful.

I wen to the museum but found it shut; the portico is the largest, and one of the finest I ever saw; the pillars are Ionic and there is a magnificent range of fresco paintings. The royal Castle too is very fine, though somewhat plain. I never heard anyone talk much about the beauty of Berlin, but I am now beginning to think it is something very fine indeed.

The Germans say that wherever a Berliner goes he is always talking about his Bearléen (so pronounced by themselves) and I don't wonder at it now.

Its great defect is the lowness of the houses which is made more apparent by the width of the streets. i shall try and see Potsdam tomorrow; it is 45 minutes by rail, going at 10 am and coming back at 5 p.m. and next morning be off for Dresden at 6.15. a.m, getting there at 12.5 - just in time for dinner.

I can easily fancy that unless one had friends in Berlin it would be a very tiresome place - and every one says it is so - but I cannot imagine a city better worth seeing.

The weather is splendid - no rain, no sun, no heat and no cold - just what it ought to be in fact; and if it will only keep fine tomorrow it may do what it likes on Friday. I shall be going down to the table d'hôte now in a few minutes and shall probably finish this tomorrow.

28th. 9.45 a.m.

I am writing this in a 2nd class carriage of the Berlin and Potsdam Railway, while waiting for it go off, 10 it goes I think; I was getting into what I took to be a bad second class - that is better than any of our 2nds, but very bad for a continental 2nd, when a porter said this is a 3d class and showed me into a 2nd class. There is absolutely no difference whatever between the first and second classes here except the price.

As I had some time to spare this morning I took a walk in the suburbs and am still more than ever astonished at Berlin.

Potsdam 12 noon.

I came down by the train in 35 minutes and then wandered about the town, till now. It is very fine, very large and somewhat like Salisbury but

larger, better and handsomer. I was assaulted by a commissionaire who wished to make a capture of me and teke me over the palace, on to Sans souci &c, but I declined, and wandered about alone, and then walked out of the town, at about ½ a mile from which I found a most lovely church yard - without exception the loveliest I ever saw; there were several women (hired) weeding and opposite many of the graves I see chairs, evidently for contemplation and thought: almost all the graves are decorated with wreathes of flowers - not immortelles but real - and most of the tombstones are of solid iron with gilt letters, evidently often renewed; at last I came to one which so attracted my attention that I determined to give you an account of it; a pedestal of grey sandstone, about 3 feet high on which stands a cast iron statuette most beautifully finished of an angel holding a table on which are in gilt letters the following inscription (translated) Emma Schade born Schade born 20th Decemb. 1830 died 20 February 1858

on the top of the tablet is a gilt butterfly resting on two crossed leaves, ovr it is hanging a pretty wreath of fresh flowers. I never saw anything tha could compare to it, and I think it would have been worth the journey from Dresden merely to see this church yard and this statue. I wish I had time to sketch it, but as I am standing and must soon be moving off, I shall not attempt it.

Berlin 4. p.m.

I am here again - very glad to have seen Potsdam - but I expect that when I get back to Dresden everybody will ask me have you seen Sans-souci? Frederick the great's tomb? the Museum at Berlin? and so forth, and when I reply "no" they will say "Oh you have seen nothing". However I indend to see places and travel in the way I find pleasantest and not "à la Guide Book".

I must now tell you of my attempt to get to the theatre last night. I went and was there in a crowd for ¾ of an hour before the doors were opened, and then got well crushed before I could get to the office, where we were all severally informed, that they were very sorry there was no more room! However I was very glad to have been in a Berlin crowd and was greatly pleased at its behaviour - plenty of joking and laughing, but all polite and goodhumoured, and the final dissapointment did not make them angry, but on the contrary brought forth more merriment. It certainly would have brought forth anythng but amusement in England or Ireland.

I have have come to the conclusion that the Berliners - men, women and children are mostly good-looing, many really handsome and not puny wretches like the Germans I am accustomed to see in Saxony. The troops are tall, fine, and well equipped but from the look of the men I should prefer the Saxons, who though mostly small and not too well dressed, have yet a something about them which makes me think that they would fight well. The officers too here ar mostly tall handsome gentlemanly looking fellows which is more than can be said for the Saxons.

Don't let uncle Frank be criticising this writing for some was written in a railway carriage, some while standing and the whole with a very short pencil and on paper most peculiarly unadapted for pencil writing.

While at breakfast this morning the waiter brought me my passport, all visé and correct so I have no more trouble about it I am very glad indeed to have seen Berlin and Potsdam which have both given me a very favourable impression of Prussia and its institution.

I enclose my Potsdam ticket which (as is often the case here) was not taken from me and has only a bit torn off each end. It is just the same size as the bank notes that one gets here and in Saxony of 3/ and 15/ (1 & 5 Thaler notes) which as you may imagine are very convenient and portable they have also ten Thaler notes, and up to any amount.

The paper currency is only passable in the country it belongs to, but the silver is current throughout all Germany, though each country has its peculiar coins.

8 p.m.

I have been out since 5 oclock wandering about the city and finding more and more to attract my attention; I have seen one archway in the Castle which is really splendid, seen two noble twin churches, the new Theatre, which is very large and (seen from the front) very handsome, and discovered more splendid streets and Places, and but very little of all that I have seen could be called poor. It is a very dressy place and everybody is dressed, gloved, hatted and booted in a most alarming way. Altogether I have seen a great deal to day, - Berlin in the morning Potsdam in the middle of the day and Berlin again in the evening.

There is a very perceptible "Goaheaditiveness" about the place which is very pleasant to see. I should not be surprised if at some day it became a place of the greatest importance - it is so at present but I mean in the greatest meaning of the word "importance".

I wish I had time to write more about it, but I must get my tea and go to bed as I shall have to be up at all hours tomorrow morning.

Friday. 6.15. a.m.
in the train for Dresden

I am now on my way back and shall post this in Dresden, so if you get it with the Dresden postmark you may conclude I am safe back. My expences, rail, Hotel and all included from Tuesday morning till now - and there will be more on this journey were £ 2..12..10 is not that very cheap? The weather is still fine.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"The Huguenots": Opera by Giacomo Meyerbeer, 1836, original title "Les Huguenots", see Wikipedia. Again we see that FEP loves music but takes no interest in its particularities - or does not assume such of his parents. organs: street organs, typically operated by veteran soldiers.
"dissapointment": firstly FEP wrote "disapointment", but it didn't look quite right, so he added another s ...}

{#56. Off to Prague with Adolphe Von S. In train May 1.st }

In the train for Prague
5.30 p.m. May 1st. 1859.

My dear papa

I left Dresden this morning at 7. with young S. having agreed to pay his expences, as money is not too plenty with the Ss, and he could not come otherwise. We shall be in Prague at 7 if all goes right. We stopped from 9 till 3 at Bodenbach on the frontier, walking about and dining there, it is in the Bohemian Switzerland which is much superior to the Saxon, and is really very pretty but without any pretensions to grandeur. The weather is lovely and my intention is to see Prague tomorrow, and on Tuesday morning take the rail up to the pretty country and then walk home through the two Switzerlands, coming home on Thursday. Troops are travelling about in all directions and some of the Saxon troops moved off yesterday

The proclamation of the Emperor of Austria has excited the greatest enthusiasm all through Germany, and the people seem to be raging to get at the French and Russians; this morning we had soldiers (Austrian) in the train and they were singing songs and shouting out "God save our Kaiser Franz". There is an Austrian officer sitting next to me at this moment and we have at least 60 soldiers in the train. The Russians are not more than 150 miles from this spot, and it is supposed we shall have the Danes making a grab at something before long. Altogether there is a prospect of a jolly good row all over Europe before long, and I suppose that at this moment the Austrians and French are cutting one another's throats. Young S. will have next year to enter the army of some small Prince but he thinks he will volunteer before his time comes. There are 30 from the Polytechnic already made officers and a priest in this carriage said that the school at Prague has been broken up, on account of so many having gone off.

The Saxon troops are in capital order, particularly the Artillery and the cavalry are very good also. In the streets you hear nothing but "Troops" - "30,000 men", "French" - "Russians" - "30 canon" - "Gallicia" - "Florence" - and such like. There can be no doubt that the feeling in Germany is very strong indeed and they are all anxiously looking out to see if England will assist. Affairs are certainly in a state of extraordinary complication.

These Austrian Railways are so badly constructed and they go so fast that it is almost impossible to write. The kit I have bought with me is fastened up in one of my leggings tied with one of the straps of the Inverness cape, and suspended by the genuine large strap is not that turning things to use?

{Switching from pencil to ink, awkwardly using a broad-edge nib:}

Blauer Stern, Prague
10. p.m.

We arrived here at 7. p.m. and then went out about the town for 1½ hour, came back and got some tea and meat in a remarkably fine coffeeroom which was nearly full of officers and gentlemen as well as a few ladies; all

were talking as usual about the war and I could occasionally distinguish "England" "Sachsen" "Zeitung". People were walking about the city in all directions and lively and very good dance music was playing in almost every third house. We went on the walls too and found numbers of people there mostly seeming to be people of the upper classes; the theatre was lighted up also, and everything was so merry looking - quite another story from Dresden, particularly in regard to the crowds of well dressed people.

Soldiers surpass in number even those of Dresden and that is a bold word. This Hotel is a very large one and seems much in request; it has a curious name "Blue Star". I am greatly surprised at the numbers of Roman Catholic statues and pictures - one on every bridge and constantly little temples occurring in the fields. I have heard very little Bohemian as yet, but what I did hear sound clear and musical The lower orders seem passionately fond of lively music, and I think I have heard more music today as than in any one day in my life before

Monday morning. we are now going to get some breakfast and then go and see the town.

We have not had to give up our passports but to fill up two sheets of paper with names, ages, religions and professions. This is such an odious pen that it is impossible to write clearly with it. I enclose too old railway tickets.

Francis E Prendergast.

{The last 1½ sentences are written with the customary ball nib.

"army of some small Prince": "Reuß jüngerer Linie" round Gera, a very small principality indeed, but the prince is incredibly high-numbered: "Heinrich LXVII.". Adolf's uncles are based in a village Debschwitz there, near Gera, and serve as officers. Adolf continues to be a subject (https://digital-beta.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/werkansicht?PPN=PPN746978987&PHYSID=PHYS_0079). The well-drilled conscription army is lent to other states for cash; noblemen are expected to become successful officers in foreign armies. Adolf's father had served in neighbouring Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (whose duke Ernst II. is the brother-in-law of Queen Victoria, FEP's head-of-state); other Seckendorffs, including two of Adolf's cousins, will be generals of the Prussian or German army;
<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=nyp.33433081808614&view=lup&seq=891> . Even the reigning "small Prince" himself continues to be an active officer, soon to become a general of the Prussian cavalry!}

{#57. Return through the 'Saxon Switzerland'. Winterberg. May 4 }
In Hotel, on the Winterberg the highest point in the Saxon Switzerland.
6.30 p.m. May 4.th 1859.

My dear Papa,

My last letter was dated from Prague and posted on the morning of the second day there, which day we employed to great purpose, going about with a valet de place and doing nine churches (chapels) Hradschin Wallensteins palace and I don't know what besides. I should have much preferred wandering about minus the commissionaire but I did it at the recommendation of uncle Jeffry who thought I had lost the time in Berlin because I had not done any of the lions. I liked what I saw of Prague very much and should like to spend a week or two there, it is most beautifully situated and has very good shops, organs were playing everywhere and the music was invariably polka galop or Wiener waltz. Tell uncle Frank that I asked twice for Butlers grave and was at both times assured that his tomb is not there; also I asked in one library for the Latin-Irish books but they had no catalogues! But they said that they thought it very probable there were some in other libraries. Next morning we left by 8 a m train and went as far as Lobositz, which we reached at eleven and then ascended a mount (not mountain for I am beginning to think that there is no such thing in Germany) from which we had a splendid view over the central plain of Bohemia and where I also saw several Swallow tail Butterflies, one Camberwell Beauty and one Pearl Frittillary, all scare insects with us. We then walked one as far as Aussig where we slept and were off this morning before 8 and walked on to Bodenbach where we arrived at 1.30 having been walking the whole time. We then took steamer as far as Hirni-Schretsch where got something to eat and then went off again. This far all was through the Elbe valley which is really magnificent, scarcely grand but most lovely.

Leaving Hirnischretsch at 2.30 we walked on into the Saxon Switzerland till we regularly lost our way and did not know whether to climb one of the precipitous bluffs of sandstone or to keep in the valleys; at last we were determined to climb upwards and after a terrific scramble through pine woods, over rocks and up precipices of apparent impossibility at last reached the summit in about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour and had there a most glorious view, but were none the wiser as to where we were; so continuing on over rocks and throught woods at las hit the bounday line of little posts which seperates Saxony and Bohemia and where we found the footprints of numerous roe or wild deer, and continuing on at last hit on this Winterberg the highest point in Saxony and on the summit of which is a most comfortable little Hotel somewhat à la Guidore. It commands views over all the adjacent county for many miles and really seems to be well built and well kept. Yesterday we walked $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours not very quick but going steadily and seldom stopping probably about 25 miles to day we walked $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the morning and then $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours the best part of which was literal climing somewhat like that we had in going up the Eagle mountain but much severer and - dangerous. All this too has been with a kit on my back weighing with my paletot strapped to it about 10 pounds; I have got so accustomed to the knapsack (which was troublesome at first) that I feel quite uncomfortable without it! Adolf can walk very well but is not up to more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour for any long distance. At this moment he is playing the piano at the other side of the room and at the same time (!) smoking a cigar of Austrian origin. He is a very pleasant companion and if he could only keep up 4 miles an hour for 4 hours I would desire no better companion

{The remainder is missing.

"recommendation of uncle Jeffry": notably not of his parents.
Butler's grave: Walter Butler of Roscrea, Ireland, colonel of the Holy Roman Empire, involved in the assassination of Wallenstein 1634. In 1852, uncle Francis had published "An Authentic Account of the Death of Wallenstein, with a Vindication of the Motives of Colonel Walter Butler" - he had done research in the army archives in Vienna (- according to Matteredly-Prendergast after serving in the Austrian army himself as well!). The original task was to justify property claims of Butler's family, clients of JPP.

Latin-Irish books: probably old manuscripts in Latin language written in Ireland and later mentioned as brought to Prague.

Lobositz: Lovosice, at the Elbe, 70 km north of Prague

Aussig: at the Elbe, 20 km downstream; Ústí nad Labem

Bodenbach: another 25 km downstream, now part of Děčín

Hirniskretschen or Herrnskretschen: Hřensko, another 14 km downstream, near the Saxon border

Winterberg: Großer Winterberg, 556 metres above sea level, in Saxony, adjacent to the border

"à la Guidore": might refer to the seaside resort Gweedore in Ireland, in the broadest category of "small tourist hotel in exotic surroundings"

"Eagle mountain": probably Mount Eagle in Ireland, 516 metres above sea level}

{#58. Cousin Harry Dalrymple Pren. of the Indian Army visits Dresden.
Dinner with Uncle Jeffry. Dresden. May 7. }

Dresden.

Saturday 7. May. 1859.

My dear Papa,

My last letter was dated from the Winterberg on Wednesday evening - well next morning it was a pour of rain so starting early was out of the question, however it cleared up about 10.30 - that is pretty nearly, but not quite and passing over the lesser Winterberg and another most lovely rock called the Kuhstall or Cowhouse reached a place called Schandau where we got some provender, crossed the Elbe, took the train and were home here at 6 p.m. (Thursday) The expences of this latter trip - and I paid all of the expences were £ 4..9*. Does not that seem very little considering that we were out from Sunday morning till Thursday evening? it really was 15/ more, but I made so much by changing a Saxon 20 dollar (= £ 3.) into Austrian paper money here which is to be had now for about two thirds of its value while in Austria it of course holds its nominal value.

Our livein in Prague for two nights atthe best Hotel there only cost 1/ (!!!) through this exchange. Now is the time for travelling in Austria or her dependencies. You need not alarm yourself about the war on my account and uncle Jeffry says he does not see why it should interfere with me, Dresden, or any travelling projects - nor do I see why it should hinder my going south.

While we were talking over our adventures at supper the maid came to say that Mr. Prendergast was waiting for me, I ran out and found Harry Prendergast in my room, of course I should never have recognised him if he had not said who he was; we had some talk and as he wished to see uncle J. I took him over - he having only just arrived from Berlin and knowing nothing about Dresden. Uncle Jeffry was at a concert but luckily came back in a few minutes and then wanted him and me to stay to tea; he of course was very glad of it, but I managed to get off it and came back to the Seckendorffs.

Next morning uncle Jeffry called in and said that they were going to have an early dinner with Harry and then were going down in the train to the Bastei or nearest end of the Saxon S. so of course I was very glad to go and we had a very pleasant day there. Uncle J. then invited Harry to come and dine with him to day, and then come to the Opera; we accepted - Harry rather uneasy at not getting off to day, for it seems he can't rest quiet till he gets to the seat of war. He seems much the worse of his wounds.

I am greatly the better of my two trips, except that they have so unsettled me that I am afraid I shall find it rather dull here, for I can think of nothing but blue hills, green pine woods, and the pleasure of being at liberty to go where you like with your traps on your back. I cannot and will not continue the riding any more, I have managed to keep to it for nearly 4 months now, principally for uncle Joe's sake, but it has always been disagreeable to me and I always looked upon it as the only thing which hindered me from being quite contented here, the very thinking about it tormenting me. I shall take the gymnastics and fencing every morning instead. Don't let uncle Willy think that I shall go to it again for I will not and if he or uncle Joe knew how disagreeable it was to me I am sure they would not wish me to be at it again, I held out as long as I could but longer I cannot.

I shall see about getting the classical master immediately and I have German and French lessons again to day so that I am at work again. The warm weather seems to have set in at last and it is time for it.

Dresden looks really very beautiful now - it has not perhaps so many fine buildings as most cities but its gardens river and walks are lovely.

You can't think what a difference the being a fortnight without speaking any English whatever made and it seemed quite strange speaking it again with Harry and uncle Jeffry. I feel quite at a loss for my knapsack, it seems as if I had lost something I could never have expected that one would become so accustomed to it. Tell uncle Frank that there is a new coinage in Austria since last November, according to whiche the Gulden (florin) consists of 100, instead of 60 kreutzers, the new kreutzer thus equalling as nearly as possibly a farthing. $\times 2$ old ks are computed to equal 3 new, while the silver 6 kr. is computed to equal 10 new!

Perhaps you might think it adviseable for me to begin any intended travels at once, as there is no danger or hinderance at present, and there is no saying what may happen soon. Austria might be seen to great advantage and at a much cheaper price than in more settled times - I mean on account of the state of her paper money at present, but I suppose it

is too early in the year for Switzerland. As long as affairs remain in the present state there can be no reason for being alarmed, so long as one keeps out of Sardinia.

Francis E Prendergast.

* the Berlin trip was £ 2.12s. so that the two journies cost in all £ 7..1s. !!!
× 50 equal 48 farthings

{Lieutenant Harry North Dalrymple Prendergast, 15.10.1834-24.07.1913, Arthur's cousin and FEP's second cousin, later called "the Happy Warrior" for a reason, plus Sir, General and VC (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Prendergast), is on 15 months' leave to recover from his arm shot wound received in combat near the Betwa river about one year ago; he uses the time to visit his relatives and to see Europe (- on May 12 he will be reported to have checked in at "Hotel Kaiserin Elisabeth" in Vienna). Obviously the entire family is informed about the circumstances. FEP displays the usual family solidarity, but no particular attachment.

Bastei: a bizarre rock formation 30 km upstream from Dresden, near the "Saxon Switzerland", <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bastei> .}

{#59. No need of Mamma's fears on the Score of the war. May 8. }
Dresden
May 8. 1859.

My dear Mamma,

I found two letters here on my return from Prague which I was very glad to get, but was somewhat surprised at your having got my first from Berlin according to your latest.

We had a very pleasant day at the Bastei with Harry P. of which you will find a further account in papa's letter. Last night we went to the opera, but it was tiresome and Harry was so fatigued that he went home without coming back to tea at Carola strasse.

I am going to dine again with uncle Jaffry to day (Sunday) at 2 oclock, and afterwards we are going to drive somewhere.

You seem to look upon Saxony as a very dangerous country indeed. Wild boars are unknown; the only wild beasts being a small kind of deer about the size of a sheep, and foxes. However I have not seen anything of them yet, except the footprints of a roe deer. As for brigands I don't believe that anybody of that description was ever heard of in Saxony, and there has not been an execution for many years past.

The shortest way of enumerating all the places I am thinking of wishing to see will be to say - the whole world in general. What put it into your head that Chil  is unhealthy? It is one of the finest climates on the globe, and has only the disadvantage of an occasional earthquake

or two. I am afraid that the idea of aunt Matilda's getting a governess is all a snare and a delusion, and I fear that when aunt Flora has found somebody just suitable they will say that they have not quite made up their minds. I have heard of no people flying on account of the war and the Dresdeners only trouble themselves about it so far that they will have Prussian or Austrian soldiers quartered upon them, all the householders having got notice to be ready to take in two or three at a moments notice. I think the Ss would have no objection to having an officer but the danger is of having to take in soldiers who eat up everything and are hard to be satisfied.

Dresden is not fortified so that it can never be bombarded or beseiged, which seem to be the two great evils in was. Were Dresden more westerly it would be near France, if more northerly near Denmark, if more southerly near Sardinia & if more easterly near Russia, all of which are hostile at present, so that you see it is in about the best possible position

Francie E. Prendergast.

{Opera: We wonder why FEP does not even mention which opera it was; obviously he found it tiresome as well, whereas he always appreciates having "tea" with Jeffry - by English definition, i.e. with sustantial food, definitely not garbage. Margaret must be bedridden.}

{#60. Give up Riding lessons. Was always sickened by them. - 'Travel-fever' Strong. - Dresden. May 10. }

Dresden

May 10. 1859.

My dear papa,

I am beginning a letter though without having anything to tell you, except that I have been much the worse of the last - and last it shall be - riding lesson I took, it was on Saturday morning on Sunday I was far from well, and on Monday morning had to go to bed at 8.30 being completely shaken up by it in all parts. However I was all right again this morning. It is the old story over again which happened every time I re-commenced at Clarendons. I think there must be something in my constitution which rebels against riding and most certainly my inclination does.

I have made myself a writing stand, and now do all my writing and some of my reading standing, as I thought I was getting pains in my chest from stooping so much. I have been studying the map a good deal lately to see what can be done in the travelling way in summer; here are two plans which are almost entirely by rail or steamer. Dresden to Vienna by rail, thence by steamer up the Danube to Regensburg, thence by post to Munich. Thence by rail to the Lake of Constance (German Boden See), through Switzerland, down the Rhine to Mainz, and thence to Dresden - home, or wherever I am to go

A second plan. Rail to Vienna thence per rail to Trieste, Venice, Verona, Milan & Lake of Como through Switzerland and down the Rhine or back to Vienna viâ Munich and the Danube

This last sounds formidable, but it is not much longer than the other and Vienna and Switzerland must always be the two chief points. Take a look at these routes on the map.

11.th Yesterday I spent 1½ hour in the Picture Gallery and then listened to the military music at the parade - and a very poor parade it is - for half an hour. I saw many persons at work in the Gallery copying, and it is very amusing to watch them fruitlessly endeavouring to catch the expression of the old masters The people are mostly young ladies or old men - odd shaggy looking figures in piratical looking dresses and bandit-like hats. I have gone with uncle Jeffry to the tailor and ordered a light shooting coat of a brownish mixture and a pair of light trousers. I went to try the coat on to day and I suspect it will have a very foreign cut, sitting in close to the small of the back &c.

I have arranged to take a gymnastic lesson 4 times a week at 7 a.m. and if I find I have time may perhaps take 2 more. I was to have had the company of a young Hungarian count this morning who thinks himself a great dab at vaulting and jumping, and Staberoh wants to try him against me but he did not make his appearance. Perhaps also it might be advisable, if the time is not otherwise occupied to have the French 4 times instead of thrice as at present.

I have not opened an English book, except to translate it, for more than a month and my German master tells me I write much better, which I suppose is in consequence of that. I sea maps of Northern Italy hung out in all directions and a very fine Italian maps of this part which has disappeared within the last fortnight. The Saxon Artillery are all quartered out at a place called Kesselsdorf about 3 miles to the south west, and I am to walk out with the Baron the first fine day and see them. By the way it was so cold to day that I was sorry I had not taken out an overcoat with me, while in the morning it was hot. It is certainly a most disagreeable climate here in Dresden, and the number of cripples and sickly looking people you see in the streets bears witness to its unhealthiness. What pleased me so much in Berlin was the fine strong looking figures of the people so different from the puny ill made Saxons.

There has been a great clearance at Hugh's this Easter, both the Russians being off, Etlinger as engineer to Munich, and Stiffle to England. Smith too making a third. However there is a Lifeguardsman arrived to whom young S. is giving conversational lessons at some miserable rate, about 10/ a month I think, however I fancy that he is learning English quicker than his pupil German. The fellows name is Burnaby, not more than 18 and very tall. Do you know anything about him?

The large rafts are beginning to come down the river now, and I saw one to day on which I counted upwards of 20 men. It is very interesting to watch them shooting the bridge

There is no fresh news of any kind here nor is any expected for some days. The worst of it is that that there is no believing anything you see in a German paper as it is pretty sure to be cooked to the German taste. I sent 4 books to be bound to day, 2 volumes of a German edition of Sir Walter Scott and 2 volumes of Andrees Geographische Wanderungen.

F. E. Prendergast

{"Stiffle to England": only temporarily, where he will meet Arthur Dalrymple Prendergast, as we will be told on May 29. Camillo Stiffel will be back for the next semester and stay at Hughes' until 1862.}

{#61. Dresden in its beauty. Harry D. Pren. gone. Dresden. May 11. and 12. }

Dresden

May 11th. 1858

My dear mamma,

I shall begin this letter by requesting that if you have any opportunity, you will send me some straw paper as I always like it for writing when in a train as it holds pencil so well and can also be used equally well for ink. It is not known here. The neighbourhood of Dresden is most lovely now with the fruit trees, which are in full bloom and make a great show. The horse chesnuts too make a great show but I do not think they are finer than our own. i have been planning all sorts of schemes for travelling which I suppose will seem to you tremendous but to me seem like a trip to Donegal or Killarney. If I am to remain on the Continent in autumn I think I should like to go to southern Germany or Northern Italy - Leghorn for instance; but at present these can only be speculations though indeed I do not see what wars or revolutions have to say to me. You may read the enclosed to Georgy Ensor, and please forward it to him. We take the war news quite quietly here and beyond a feeling of curiosity and some slight patriotism it raises no excitement. I am thinking of getting myself photographed à la uncle Joe some time soon, how many copies would you like me to get?

Francis E. Prendergast.

No room for G's letter I shall send it in my next.

Thursday morning May 12. 10. a.m.

I received yours of the 8th (Sunday) last night. Harry had left on Sunday so I could go with him and whether I shall follow him or not may be decided by uncle Jeffry. I should be in favour of waiting till July when I hope to get a good fling as you will perceive from the first part of this letter. There would not be much advantage being with Harry as he is unable to take much exercise and is not troubling his head much about sight seeing. I wish you could find some one with whom I could travel, for though I like travelling alone very well still it is pleasanter to have a companion and it reduces the expences. I shall now go in to uncle Jeffry and if he advises me to go may possibly be off in a couple of

hours. However I do not think that he will approve of it as if he had he would have probably sent me a note before this. It would be a long way to go to Vienna only for a few days when I must pass that place if I go to Switzerland in the summer.

7.30 p.m. I saw uncle Jeffry this morning and he agreed with me that there would be no use in following Harry as he is probably out of Vienna this time. I should like if possible to be off before the middle of July for I suppose Switzerland and Vienna will probably both be feasible even if the war does spread.

I have just come in from a 5 hours walk with the Baron having been to Kesselsdorf to look for the Artillery and did not find them. On getting back he said well I think a 5 hours walk is not so bad for a man of 58½

F. E. P.

{"1858": sic! and nobody corrected this time.
The 2nd degree Cousin Harry Dalrymple Prendergast, 1834-1913, has left for Vienna; FEP was asked to follow him but does not want to.
Kesselsdorf is 12 km to walk west of Prager Str.}

{#62. Travelling dress and Kit. So content to wait till 1 August to begin a tour. Walk to Tharandt and back. Dresden. May 14. 17. 18. }

Dresden

May 14. 1859.

My dear Papa

I am beginning this letter to tell you that I have got Greek and Latin master_s_. Dr. Hübner recommended a Dr. Scheibe as a good classical master, to whom I went and found that he had only two days in the week which I could take, and Dr. Hübner hearing this, said I ought to take him by all means for the Greek and he himself would undertake the Latin part, so I have 4 days a week of Classics. Here is my day-bill

	Gymnastics	Latin	Greek	French	German
Mon.	7-8		10-11		12-1
Tues.		10-11	11-12		
Wed.	7-8			11-12	
Thur.		12-1	11-12		
Frid.	7-8	9-10			
Sat	7-8		11-12		12-1

My first Latin and Greek lesson will be on Tuesday next and by Scheibe's direction I have bought a Greek & German Lexicon - Benseler's, only a few months out; it is Royal 8vo, in paper and cost 6/; also the Apologia Socratis, also in paper costing 7d, these seem very cheap, but then they are unbound and on bad paper. Hübner I like very much, he has a great resemblance to Sharpe in manner but not in appearance. I shall also have to get some books for him. Uncle Jeffry says he thinks that I may soon leave off the German lessons as I shall learn a great deal from the having to translate into German. However that will soon be settled.

I had no knapsack with me on my trip, but when my traps were properly strapped up in one of the leggings it looked just like a knapsack and I carried it like one.

My kit was - one shirt, a night-shirt, 2 pair of socks, 2 handkerchiefs, a pair of slippers, soap, and toothbrush in my pockets, I had a map, writing case and pocket comb. The things I have underlined were particularly useful and agreeable. A flannel jacket and pair of trousers would take up very little room and be very useful. Carrying the paletot was troublesome but very necessary. Do you think it would be advisable for me to get off to Switzerland at once? Now is the time for travelling through Austria as the gulden (2/) is to be had for 1/4!! or in other words about 1/4 of its real value. There is no saying how the continent may be stopped up in a couple of months while at present it is perfectly open in all directions, and seeing Switzerland now would be better than the chance of not seeing for a good while to come. I send you another route. Rail viâ Nurnberg to lake of Constance - Switzerland - Lake of Constance to Munich Munich to Donauworth thence per steamer and viâ Ratisbon Passau & Linz to Vienna, thence by rail to Dresden. The Danube scenery is said to surpass that of the Rhine.

Should the war come on so as to prevent any going about in this part of the continent I would like to go up to Sweden or Norway both of which are only 3 days from here.

17.th I have just had my first Latin lesson from Dr. Hübner and as you may imagine did not get very far; what I did being to translate a few sentences into Latin and the first six or 7 lines of Horace into German, the last of which was very, very difficult. He says it will be so for the first 8 days or so and promised that it will greatly improve my German I am expecting Dr Scheibe every minute now.

Wednesday 18. Your letter of Sunday has just come and I shall finish this and take it to the post forthwith.

I am very well contented to remain here till 1.st August, but the plans I have been sending you will not be lost as I suppose you are not well posted in the present state of communication by rail &c over Europe. I do not fancy I shall make such progress in my classics as the the learning through German must always be a sort of hinderance, but of course they will help the German greatly. Bathing is to be had in the Elbe, as well as swimming masters of which I intend to avail myself. To day is lovely and it seems likely to hold. Everyone here has turned out in new rigs - Panama hats - duck trousers and light shooting-coats seeming to be the order of the day.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#63. Greek and Latin masters. Distribution of time. Dresden May 18. }
Dresden
May 14. 1859.

My dear mamma

It was only yesterday that I wrote but I am beginning this now in order to answer your questions. In the first place tell aunt Flora that the pencils I use are Paravisos (or Rowney, it is all the same) H.B. externally of a dark red colour, and if she is buying any do not let her be persuaded to take hexagonal or octogonal ones but stick to the honest old round. There is no driving road to the Winterberg Hotel, but there is a very fair bridle road - that is such as you might see near Berehaven. In summer the Hotel is often full; when rain coming on the people cannot of course leave and then the people usually dance for want of something better; Adolf and I were laying all sorts of plans how to manage to be there on a wet day in summer.

I keep on making plans for travelling though it is impossible to know what may be the state of Europe in a couple of months.

Would you like me to collect specimens of the different Saxon coins in circulation at present? There is nothing over a 3/ piece so it would cost but little.

You ask me if I am grown, uncle J. measured me the other day and in the last 4 months I have grown one eighth of an inch.

I suppose I may conclude also that I am broader for my summer waistcoats are, I find, too tight across the chest.

17th As I expect a letter to morrow I shall keep this letter, there not being anything of note in it. I am very anxious to get off for somewhere before long as travelling may be rendered inconvenient if the war spreads, though indeed I suppose Switzerland would be always open. I have got the 4 books bound very nicely and cheaply and in the miraculously short time of three days! I have always been sorry that I have brought so many books with me and were it not for the carrying them I would often buy books here where they are so cheap and good.

Wednesday 18.th Your letter just arrived Let me hear more about Miss Holbrooke as I am curious as to the result. Send my best respects to Mrs and Miss Nash. Is there my supposition of the last being about to change her name before long? I took a very long walk yesterday viz. to Tharandt and back doing the whole in $4\frac{3}{4}$ hours. I got drenched to the skin in the last half hour but as I was able to change it was no matter The Ss were all severally caught in the same shower and all more or less wet thereby.

Francis E Prendergast

P.S. While on a journey where the letter must be like a journal I always write to papa to save breaking it in two.

You can read G's letter if you like

{G: probably "Georgy" Ensor, son of uncle Charles, cf. May 11. FEP's mother corresponds with her relatives regularly, and must forward enclosed letters, enclosed in her own ones.}

{#64. Trains with 50'000 Austrians expected. New Lodgers Comng. German pronuciation of Greek. Dresden May 22. 23. }

Dresden
May 22.d 1859.

My dear Papa,

Since my last letter we have had nothing but fine warm weather and the unavoidable glare. Uncle Jeffry tells me that in summer he never goes out between 10 and 4 if he can avoid it, for the heat and glare is so great. I went out on a drawing expedition with young S. yesterday, his object being to sketch railway stations, but we wandered about so long that finally we had only time left to draw an iron bridge. To day, to morrow and the next day Austrian troops will be passing through here supposed to be en route for Insbruck; 16,000 it is said which would require about 16 trains on the calculation of every carriaga containing 50 men and each train composed of 20 carriages. There is even some talk of their stopping here and as this would be what is called War-billeting (Kriegs Einquartierung) the Ss would have three or four put in upon them. However I don't fancy that it will be so. Other reports send the troops to the Rhine but the fact is that nobody knows where they are going to. That they are to pass through however is certain for notices have appeared in the papers saying that on these days many of the usual trains will be discontinued and none but mail or courier trains will run.

There has been great whistling going on all the morning since an early hour so perhaps they are going through at this minute. We are going to have a new lodger here on the first of June; - an old Prussian colonel who is coming to drink the mineral waters in the Struvesche Garten here. He will only be here till July 1.st There is also a pobability of an English lady named Butler coming here, she was sent by some of Mrs. Whittles friends so I conclude she is a lady. She can speak very little German and the Barons English was unintelligible to her and they hunted for me everywhere to come and act as interpreter but unluckily I was out, so did not see her. She was going to the country for three weeks and would make up her mind in the mean while so that she will not be here (if she comes at all) for a month at least.

The Greek I find goes into German much easier than Latin but the pronuciation is very differend; first the accent is always on the syllable where the accent is; ou and u are both pronounced oo (as in boot) η and ε are both pronounce as ā in wāve αυ is pronounced ou (as in proud) θ is pronounced like t. ι is of course pronounced ee and ευ is pronounced oi; and as the Germans can make little little or no difference between p & b; d & t; g & k, it changes the sound completely, making it quite soft and liquid; χ too is pronounced like our gh in lough, χρη being pronounced gh-ray - ουκουυ = oogōōn κα θευ δειυ = gadoidān &c.

Monday 23. Your letter came this morning and I have just had a gymnastic lesson from 7 till 8, then home to my breakfast, a German lesson from 9 till 10 and from 10 till 11.30 French, after which as you may imagine I am pretty well tired. I do not like singing my own praises but I think it right to tell you that after talking with my German master for an hour this morning (not happening to have work prepared) he told me that he considered I had made as much progress in the German generally as could be expected in the time, and that he was quite surprised at the ease and correctness with which I spoke it and that if I had given half the time I spent at the drawing, in writing it that I would have been at this time able to have written very fairly. French of course continues (and must continue as long as I am in Germany) to be almost impossible for me to speak- but I think I am beginning to get on better with the writing it. My reading desk I found not to answer in practice and I have rigged up another contrivance with a portfolio raised on a few books but it is nearly the same as any ordinary table

Francie E. Prendergast.

{"mineral waters": Struve produces artificial mineral water from a fountain, normally for bottling; his factory is at Prager Straße 12b, nearby.

English lady: Emily Hale Puckle, as we shall see on 08.06.

The Baron's English: we know that his mother was born and raised in Philadelphia, but of German background and presumably more at home in some German dialect than in English.}

{#65. "Eyed Hawk moth". Uncle Jeffry's astronomical telescope. May 23. }
Dresden.
May 22.d 1859.

My dear mamma,

Since my last letter nothing of importance has occurred, unless you consider my getting a very handsome moth from the youngest Seckendorff as such. It is called Sphinx ocellata (eyed hawkmoth I think) and if you wish to find his picture you probably can by looking in the moth book of the naturalist's library or in Catlow; he (the youngest S. by name Arthur, which is pronounced Artoor in German) is also a fancier and has lent me an improved edition of his brothers Butterfly book.

The second supply of paper which I bought is again run out, but that is easily replaced. We shall have the grand (qu?) public entrance of the Prince and princess here next Saturday, which I suppose will be a grand holiday, they are constructing a gigantic arch in the Alt Markt and Adolfs heart is nearly broke because the Polytechnic School was not allowed to get up a torch-dance or rather procession. The S's sit every evening now from 9 till 10 in their little garden in front which seems to be the greatest delight in the world for the Germans. The dryness of the air here is very curious and thus enables people to be out in the evening and sitting in the open air without the least fear of

catching cold. Ink too dries up in the most extraordinary way and when writing, the preceding word is dry before you have finished the following one.

2. p.m.

Monday 23.d I have just returned from the Railway Station where we had been seeing a tremendous long train full of Austrian (Hungarian) troops passing through; there must have been 30 carriages I think all full. The number of troops to pass through is 38,000 and _8_ trainfuls are to pass through to day.

They stop in the Neu-Stadt for an hour for refreshments but that is all we have to do with them here. Your letter came this morning enclosing Grandmamma's but I don't think there are any questions to be answered.

I was out a long drive yesterday with uncle Jeffry and then in the evening got a fine view of Saturn through his telescope; through this telescope he looks about a quarter of the size of the moon and his ring and its shadow is plainly perceptible. The telescope is hard to manage and requires to be constantly _moved_ as the planet travels along the field of view in no time. Uncle J. has not succeeded in catching Jupiter yet, but though he was plainly visible to the eye the other evening he could not be found by the telescope at all! much to uncle J's disgust who spent 1½ in hunting him.

F. E. Prendergast.

{"Innsbruck": Innsbruck in Tyrol. The railway line starts at Kraków, which belongs to Austria-Hungary, and passes Prussian, Saxon, and Bavarian territory, all more or less allied. The most dangerous enemy is no longer Russia, but France, Napoleon III spreading fear by his mere name.

Pronunciation of Classical Greek and German: to be taken with a grain of salt. Softening p, t, and k is a peculiarity of Saxon dialect. More interesting: the recipients are assumed not to know any Greek yet, whereas all the male Prendergasts must have a substantial knowledge of Latin, in English pronunciation.

"the planet travels": anyone truly interested must know that the effect is due to earth rotation; the planet's move being comparatively negligible. FEP's taste for mathematical disciplines has yet to develop. Jeffry seems to have some ambition after all. The little finderscopes mounted to some telescopes do have their use.}

{#66. Austrians passing through for five whole days. The Polytechnics t. serenade them. The general welcome they receive. Dresden - May 25, 26. }
Dresden
May 25. 1859.

My dear papa

I am beginning this now to tell you that the expected lady is coming the week after next, and also that her name is _not_ Butler, the Germans with

P and B confounding everything; this morning they assured me her name was Buckle, and at dinner they produced her card which was that of Miss Puckle. At this moment there is a sort of cheering going on at the Railway Station close by, a trainful of Austrian troops passing by; they are going through night and day at the rate of 7 or 8 trains a day and will continue to do so until the end of the week, and then Prussians are expected; these troops are the same I saw in Prague, Hungarians and Italians; I was twice at the Station with the S's yesterday and then again there with the shole faction at 10 p.m. when I helped the cheering to such an extent that I got a headache; as soon as the train came up the cheering began, when an Austrian officer got out of the carriages and shouted "God save king John of Saxony" which was immediately answered to by Adolf, who shouted "Long live our Emperor Franz Joseph" (N.B. he is no more an Austrian subject than I am) the success of this was immense everybody, soldiers, men, women and children all screeching at the top of their voices. We shall probably have another train to night at the same time which we will of course go and see as the station is within a good stone's throw.

26.th Two more trains came last night and were both received in the same manner. Tomorrow night the choral society of the Polytechnic is to be down there to welcome them with the Austrian hymn and every member of it must take at least 25 cigars with him to give to the soldiers. The number of strangers in Dresden just now is enormous the Police list of arrivals, which appears daily filling generally now a whole page, whereas before this it was seldom more than a quarter full.

The little excitement caused by the first fight in Italy has died away again and the Dresdeners have again subsided into their usual apathy; sleeping seems the order of the day and the Ss say they cannot get on without a two hours siesta after dinner, and it certainly is very hard to avoid sleeping in the middle of the day. There is a thunderstorm going on at present which seems likely to be pretty considerable; last night there was most vivid sheet lightning in the south west which I suppose had something in common with this. Somehow I do not think Dresden air agrees with me, as long as the frost lasted it was all very well, but since the fine weather has begun there is seldom a week that I do not suffer more or less from headaches which till now were almost unknown to me. 8.30 p.m. I have just seen two more trainfuls of Italians going through, they were shouting out viva la Saxonia and cheering in the most boisterous manner, threre were several ladies goint about and giving them cigars, some giving money instead, this is the 5th train I heard passing through to day and 3 more will probably come later.

Uncle Jeffry and aunt Margaret were at the station in the carriage but I only spoke to them for a moment. The trains average about 30 carriages about 20 of the carriages having men and the rest munitions. A General and staff passed through last night. I have invested 2/ in cigars for the soldiers - for 2/ you get in this part of the world 50 cigars! I am expecting Hübner every minute now. Last night I was at the station at 10 p.m. and helped to cheer and cry viva to the Italians till I could not speak. Today Friday we are to have artillery passing through and next week cavalry. I am going to get myself a coloured flannel shirt and see how it will do, for everyone tells me they are the things to wear here in

summer. I dare say a letter will come this evening but I shall not keep this on chances.

F. E. Prendergast.

PS tell uncle Frank that he owes me a letter.

["our Emperor Franz Joseph": the kaiser's grandfather had been the last Holy Roman Emperor until that empire was dissolved under French pressure in 1804; Adolf's shouting may be understood as a wish for restauration. Also, the kaiser is a descendent of Saxon electors/kings, notably the famous "Augustus the Strong", and thus a relative of the present king Johann. A common fear is Prussia's grip for domination. However, Saxons of higher political awareness know that Austria is not much better. At the moment, they all are united against France, and even FEP seems to be infected by "slight patriotism".

Italians: from the north eastern part of Italy under Austrian domination, of course. This war will be labeled "Second Italian War of Independence" by the eventual victors, but many Italians are quite happy with Austria's rule, many others have to pretend so, or fear the French even more. (The grandfathers tend to glorify the days of Napoleon I, long gone.) Uncle Frank has been in Lombardy with the Austrian army only a few years ago; details are yet to be researched.}

{#67. The Portuguese Prince + Princess to enter town soon - A Russian Colonel to be a boarder. Dresden. May 27. }

Dresden

May 27. 1859.

My dear mamma,

I am sure I don't know how I shall be able to fill up a letter to you for I think all the news that there is, is in papas letter. We are fairly in the warm weather now though of course it is not at its full warmth yet. Tomorrow is the day of the entrance of the prince and his Portugese wife and great preparations are making in consequence, windows too are very hard to be had and you must pay pretty handsomely for them, they arrive at 10 a.m. and all will probably be over before 12. I do not fancy that it will be anything worth seeing but I shall go of course like the rest of the world as I I always like studying the crowd. We shall have a Prussian colonel staying here from June 1st to July 1st and the week after next an English lady is coming of the name of Miss Puckle. I have not seen her yet, but as soon as she comes I shall send you a full true and accurate description of her. Don't forget to tell me any news about Miss Holbrooke that you may hear. I am writing this against time as I want to go and hear the band and make some purchases in the town. I shall make my next longer.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Miss Holbrooke: see May 14.}

{#68. Entry of the Prince + Princess - Miners (3000) all drilled, and in black uniform. - A walk with a revolutionary miner. Dresden. May 29. }

Dresden

May 29.th 1859

My dear papa

Yesterday was the day of the entry of the prince and new princess. The procession began its march at 10 a.m. and lasted till half past 12. There were all the Dresden Guilds with flags &c, police, cavalry, peasant girls and also the miners out of the Plaue'sche Grund, who alone number 2000! all drilled and in black uniforms with enormous schako's of black with a Grecian border of yellow. The procession was immense and the crowd very respectable; I could not see the princess on account of the way she carried her parasol but she is reported to be very pretty*. After dinner I went out for a walk round by Potsschaffel and Kesselsdorf, a 4 hours stretch; on the way I fell in with one of the miners and walked about a mile with him, according to his account of the state of affairs the general feeling among the lower order is very bad, and he added in a significant way since "48" we have always had a "rifle at home and something to put into it" He said he had been 6 years in the cavalry and liked it well enough except for it being compulsory and the pay small, he added "If I had money I should have been out of Saxony long ago and in the English cavalry or in America" He told me that in that particular valley there were 1400 miners almost all of whom had been in the army; well drilled of course, and if they really have arms no contemptible force. The state of feeling here is certainly bad and Miss S. has been once insulted in the streets by common workmen. I remark too that they seem to take a particular pleasure in knocking against one, and none will move off the flagways as before to let a well dressed person pass.

Yesterday evening we had the two pretty young Americans in to supper, the twang that one of them has is very great, the effect of it which is most extraordinary in speaking German. Their names are Miss Crothers (changed from C_a_rruthers of course and Miss Baldwin); the S's had procured them a window to see the procession which was the cause of their visit. It would be impossible to go to the Saxon Sw. now, even from Saturday till Monday - with young S. I mean - but at Whitsuntide he has a few days when I hope to get off for a day or two again, I shall stick to the German master as it is the only way I have for the German writing which is of course very necessary. It is fearfully hard turning Latin into German - far harder than the Greek, which I suppose is much easier by the article being in both languages. I don't think it would be any use sending me an account of uncle C's knapsack as there would no means of sending one, and I should not like to get one made on chances.

Francis E. Prendergast.

*others say as plain as is possible.

{"prince and new princess": Georg, the Saxon king's second son (1832-1904, to become king in 1902!), with Maria Anna of Portugal (1843-1884). The princess is partly of German background; a photo shows her reasonably

handsome. No big deal, but royalties rarely skip an occasion for a parade.

Plauescher Grund: part of the Gera valley in present-day Thuringia, outside the kingdom. If this place is meant and FEP's information is correct, the miners mentioned seem to be veterans of the royal Saxon army, leased there. The uniforms are miner's habits, not military; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miner%27s_habit

"since 48": the revolutionary events in 1848 and 1849, particularly the "May Uprising in Dresden" (see Wikipedia) with some 200 shot dead in Dresden.

Carruthers: a Scottish clan name well-known on the British Isles, hence "of course". The spelling variation Crothers, not quite so common, is also medieval Scottish, probably not "changed" on emigration. The two Misses have already been mentioned on March 9.}

{#69. Passage of Hungarian and Italian troops. Fierce singing of the Italians. - Bellowing frogs. - May 29. 30 }
Dresden
May 29.th 1859.

My dear mamma

Yours and papa's of the 24th cam on the 27th, I having sent off a letter in the morning. The past week has been a very restless one as everybody was perpetually running in and out to see the Austrians passing through. I was very glad to get another sight of the Hungarians and Italians, some of the latter sang most beautifully. This morning I went to the R.C. cathedral with young S. to hear the mass celebrated in honour of the Princesses arrival. What there was of music was very fine but there was very little, and the crowd was very great. Was there more than 3 sheets of this paper in the letter which was charged double? I think I have often sent 3 sheets before and you never said anything about its being over weight. Weigh 3 with an envelope and see howmuch it is.

If I went to Norway or Denmark or thereaway I should of course try to learn the language, but one really requires to know very little of anything but English now adays. One of the American ladies who was here last night gave me a very pleasant account of Copenhagen, she said it was very agreeable, the people most hospitable to all except Germans and a great deal of life going on and a great many things to be seen, which was exactly what I had imagined. Monday 30.th I dined with uncle J. yesterday and we drove and walked a little afterwards, but were prevented from taking any long drive by the tail of a thunderstorm which just touched here. I am now going to the tailor's to order a linen waistcoat as I have only got one wearable with me viz. the one made at M.felt. the Dublin one having grown too small. I do not think I ever told you of the odd noises that the frogs make here; some croaking others bellowing; some cry like children, another kind makes a noise like the hum of falling water and a 5th kind making a really very pretty sound somewhat like a bell; there is one more kind which makes a sort of piping or whistling noise

but I think it is only at night that it is heard. They all seem to live in ponds. The number of cock-chafers (German Maikäfer) too is immense here, but butterflies do not seem very plentiful. I have just got a long letter from uncle Joe to whom I had written last week. He said he had dined with Arthur P. who told him he had seen Stiffle - one of the Russians who were at Hughe's, and who had only left this a few days ago, but uncle J. did not say if there was any likelihood of Arthur coming here this summer.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Princesses": as we have seen before, FEP's notion of the Saxon genitive has been confused by its different orthography in modern German.

Roman Catholics form a tiny minority in Dresden, notably including the entire royal family.

"all except Germans": during the Schleswig-Holstein Uprising of 1848-1851 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Schleswig_War), nationalist emotions were cooked up by the flourishing newspapers of both countries. Civilians visiting the other country suddenly had to face hostile feelings, such as Annette Preußer's friend and rumoured would-be fiancé Niels Wilhelm Gade in Leipzig (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niels_Gade). The worst was over already by 1853, when Gade returned to Leipzig, where the Prendergast couple met him at the Preußers' house and in the concert hall. However, the political conflict was far from solved, and emotions could be reignited at the slightest incident.

"M.felt.": Magherafelt.

Arthur P.: Arthur Dalrymple Prendergast, FEP' second degree cousin, who had stayed at the boarding house of Prof. Hughes earlier, together with Camillo Stiffel. The latter has left for England, as we know from the letter of May 10; he seems to be Arthur's friend and to have met him there very recently. Camillo will continue his studies at Dresden and actually have his name entered into the directory of 1862 as "Stiffel, Camillo, Rentier, Marienstr. 4. II.", i.e. person of independent means, under the address of Hughes' boarding house! Therefore it is logical to expect that Arthur will return the visit; presumably FEP knows about such plans.}

{#70. Easier to render Greek into German than Latin. The Russian Colonel arrives. June 2d. 3d.}
Dresden. June 2d. 1859.

My dear Papa,

I am beginning this in answer to your letter of Sunday which came yesterday (Wednesday). You speak about the Greek being so different - well the first day Scheibe came I could scarcely follow him when reading it and without the book would not have been able to tell what it was. The Latin is not so very much changed, but still a good deal, u is pronounced oo; a always the same; e, ay; j like y c before e and i tst, g

always hard; th like t; &c. thus jungere is pronounced yoongeray (g as in gone) res gestae like rays gestay (g hard) and so on.

However I find it easy enough to read, but to translate the Latin into German or vice versa is something dreadful, a short chapter in Sallust taking at least three quarters of the hour that Hübner is here, while with the Greek I can translate two good pages in the same time.

The prince and princess who arrived were prince George - the 2d son of the king - and his Portugese bride. The weather is now very curious here from sunrise you have a clear blue sky with a staring, glaring, roasting sun keeping everyone at home who is not obliged to go out; at about 4 or 5 oclock thunderclouds begin to collect and we have a slight thunderstorm with or without rain which soon passes off and the remainder of the evening is fine, people beginning to go out walking at 8.30 or 9 p.m.

The Prussian colonel has come; he is a little man with large moustache somewhat like colonel Roxburg but certainly somewhat larger. I shall have an opportunity of learning Prussian which is considerably different from the Saxon, the principal difference is that g is always pronounced like y, which is different from ordinary German where it is always hard, they also speak very fast and somewhat through the nose. I can understand most of what he says but not all.

June 3.d

The heat is getting tremendous; yesterday uncle J's thermometer, which is hung in the coldest possible place where no sun ever comes, registered 21° of Reaumur which corresponds to about 80 of Fahrenheit! It often gets up to 24° which equals 86°!

Hi have made a most important discovery about travelling, viz that the 3d class is considerably better than our second and the people certainly more respectable than those you meet in our 2nd class and the difference in price is very considerable; in winter of course it would not do.

There are now tickets issued for 3 or four days duration to Teplitz one of the bathing places in north Bohemia and as they only cost 7/8 there and back - about 70 miles off it is - I shall try and get down for a day at Whitsuntide. I have just come in from looking for a coloured flannel shirt, and though I was in the best shop here they had no such thing on hand! I also must go and look for a pair of shoes which I want very badly but I am almost afraid to go as probably they will not be to be found ready made; the shops here are certainly wretched. I have arrived at the conclusion that double soles on shoes are worse than useless as the moment the outer sole is gone - and that is very soon - the shoe is useless.

7.45 p.m. a train of 45 carriages has just passed by full of hussars, such a train carries about 250 men and horses; the trains pour through as fast as ever but they are now always full of cavalry and artillery I have not done anything yet in the way of bathing or looking for a swimming master but I will ask uncle Jeffry about it on Sunday. Adolf says says

there is no use bathing now as the water is hotter than the air but that I think is scarcely possible.

Francis E. Prendergast.

P.S. This will not be posted till tomorrow morning.

{"learning Prussian": the "y" pronunciation (as in "yellow") applies to many northern dialects; FEP is probably describing the dialect of Berlin. "Prussian" is no longer an ethnic or linguistic category, and when it was, it referred to the area now called East Prussia - quite a distance away.}

{#71. Walk thro' the Rabenauer valley with the two Von Seckendorfs. 'Swallow tailed' butterflies. The heat. - The nights passed on the balconies. Dresden. June 3d.}
Dresden

June 3d. 1859

My dear mamma

Since I last wrote to you we have got the Prussian colonel of whom you will find a full description in papa's letter. I was a very pleasant walk with the two young S's yesterday, viz to the Rabenauer Grund (valley) near Tharandt we walked there and came back in the train. We left after dinner at 3 oclock and got there at 6 coming home at half past 8. On our way there we saw several of the long tailed swallowtail butterfly whose picture you will find in the naturalists library - (not in the Blue-book) they flew most beautifully with a long steady sailing flight. The German name is the sailing-flyer - most appropriate. I knocked one of them down with my stick but though we hunted for him for more than 10 minutes he could not be found.

The dust here is dreadful, it lies an inch thick everywhere and and as there is generally a little wind it keeps it in motion. The English lady is expected to night, and I hope she may find her room (the one corresponding to mine pleasant, but I strongly suspect it will be like an oven as it has the sun all day; mine has it only till 11 oclock and is unpleasant even so.

6.30 p.m. I am writing this in the Grosser Garten as it so hot in the house after dinner that it is impossible to avoid falling asleep if you try to do anything in the shape of working. I brought out all the work I could conveniently carry and worked for about 1½ hour when i moved to another point which commands a view of the Saxon Switzerland and where I am now writing this. Before coming out here I ordered a pair of shoes and also got a flannel shirt, things are very cheap here but by no means equal to ours. There is a concert here every morning at 6 a.m. when people come out to take their breakfasts and I shall walk out some morning soon. The mineral waters about which you were asking are all made here by Dr. Struve in whose garden they are to be had, and where you can go through any prescribed course of drinking without the trouble of going

to the watering place! No letter from aunt Nannie as yet, and you may tell uncle Frank he has owed me one for 6 weeks! The hot weather I think seems going to break as the clouds are quite changed We always sit on the balcony or in the garden from supper till bed time which is a very pleasant way of spending the evening, as the air is so dry and warm here; it is now seven so I must be mending my homeward way.

Francis E Prendergast

{#72. Would like to winter in Switzerland to Clara Funch. - Time in Germany is lost to the Classics. Dresden. June 6. 8.}

Dresden

June 6. 1859

My dear papa

Yours of the 1st came this morning and i begin my answer to it at once. Regarding your ideas about my stay in Dresden - which is the principal point in your letter. You seem altogether to ignore my not being able to speak a word of _French_, the want of which I find every day more and more. German is a tip top language to know, without a doubt, but I am sure French is more important, and the difficulty of learning it would be much greater in a year or two, to say nothing of the thousand and one things that may be in the way in a year or two. If you wish me to remain on the continent during the winter _my_ idea would be this. Supposing I go off on my wanderings on August 1st and get back on or before the first of October; I could then remain here till about Christmas, when I might move down to Switzerland (Veray, Lausanne or thereabouts) and spend 2 or 3 months in a Swiss family where I would hear nothing but French; this I think ought to give my French a good lift and would at all events put me in the way of speaking French, of which it is high time that I should know some more than I do at present.

I have often spoken to uncle Jeffry about this, and he approves highly of it, agreeing with me about the great importance of French. This would give me a whole year in Germany, which I think ought to suffice for the present. I shall never spend the spring in Dresden again if I can help it, for the weather was most disagreeable and I had generally something wrong (in a trifling way I mean) with me. I look upon the time spent on the continent as in a great manner lost to the classics and what might be termed school-studies generally, though of course much is gained in other respects; learning thorough foreign languages must always be a great drawback, not only from the difficulty of it, but also from the extra amount of time it requires. If I return to Dresden I must make some effort about getting on with mathematics and algebra and arithmetic; the last two - particularly algebra I am very backward in and they are both most necessary whether for college or every day life. If living in Switzerland I could of course very soon pursue classics and mathematics in French (at least I think so) to say nothing of seeing a new country, new people, new language, and new modes of life; and uncle Jeffry assures me that there are houses without and of the kind I should require.

Perhaps afterwards I might get down Italy-ways and pick up something of the language; - but this last is merely speculation. I wish you would think over the Switzerland idea and tell me what you think about it. Ask uncle Jeffry his opinion. I do not see that any plans need be disturbed by the wars - except that one must keep out of Italy for the present, if they wish to travel in comfort. You made a slight mistake about Tegern See in one of your letters - is is not in the Tyrol but a few miles on the Bavarian side of the frontier. June 8.th I met uncle Jeffry in the Grosser Garten this morning and told him of your plan for my stay here. He grumbled and said "hm I don't think that this winter in Dresden would be the thing for you; German is a most important language &c &c, but French &c. &c., so you may write to him and hear his opinion on the matter which would probably be the best you could hear; so till you say more about the question and get his opinions I shall remain silent.

I am afraid I shall not be able to get young S. to come with me on a trip, but at all events I shall go somewhere, where to I don't know. I met Hogarth, the little cracked Frenchman who was at Hughes, this morning; he said he was going back to Paris tomorrow, so that Hugh's will be pretty empty now.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{#73. Miss Puckle, a new boarder. Two American Lady-visitors. - Adolphe would talk with Americans but wed an Englishwoman. June 8. 9.}

Dresden

June 8.th 1859.

My dear mamma

Yours enclosing aunt Nannie's has just arrived. I received one from Mary and aunt Elizabeth yesterday so this week I am in a flood of letters which is by no means usually the case now. I think they describe Miss H. in very high terms and she seems to be the very thing that they wanted. The flannel shirt I have got is checkquered blue and white, but I have not begun to wear it yet as the collar (which I had to get made) is not yet back from the wash. If it suits well, I shall get some more and another shirt. I have also some thoughts of getting a uba for 10/6 as the shooting coat, though I can't find any fault with it, is not the most comfortable thing for walking in. Its fault (if any) is being too good a fit and yet I cannot say that it is too tight anywhere. You ask if I am forgetting how to speak English. Of course I can speak it as well as ever but I sometimes hesitate for a word and often over the construction. in consequence also of reading little or no English I find the spelling getting very hard and I often have to look out for words. The English Lady - Miss Puckle - has come. She came on Saturday. She is a tall, goodlooking, somewhat stiff, and aristocratic looking person of between 35 and 40, with most ladylike manners. She speaks little or no German, but seems very anxious to learn. She is a painter, but I have not seen any of her performances yet. Her sister is married to Brady, who is, or was lord Chancellor or something* in Dublin. She has a brother holding some Government appointment in Quebec (Customs I think) and another brother who was gold licence commissioner in Australia and has now got

some other appointment there. I have also discovered that her family live at or near Brighton and also in Huntingdon.

I like her very well but her not understanding German is a great nuisance for me as I must of course talk a good deal to her and also interpret a great deal. I have a great dislike to speaking English with or even before Germans, and the S's laugh at me, and say they never heard me speak a word of English till Miss P. came. We had the two American ladies in to supper last night and had a very pleasant evening. Adolf says that if wanted a lady to talk with he would certainly take an American, but if he had to marry a foreigner he would take an Englishwoman! They are certainly very lively and amusing as well as pretty. They are living here with Mrs. Davis to learn German and other accomplishments.

I make many travelling plans but I have not got a satisfactory one made yet, and it is possible that the Tyrol may be impassible in August and the French may be in Vienna in 6 weeks; Switzerland will however be pretty sure to be always open.

The weather here continues warm and sunny and I don't know of any news in particular to tell you except that we paid a visit at Lockwitz (the Preussers) on Sunday, and that the Baron went off this evening to Hamburg for a few days about some business.

The Prussian colonel is very agreeable and tells many good stories; he has the iron cross, a mark of distinguished valour; he made the campaign against Bonaparte with the Prussians, and was wounded at the battle of Leipsic.

Francis E. Prendergast

*I have forgotten the names of all our officials and told a German the other day that Lord Carlisle was our L. C.!

P.S. June 9th. Ask papa whether he thinks it would be best to go viâ Vienna to Tegern See, or first to Tegern See viâ Munich and then to Vienna and back again towards Switzerland. I am in favour of the first route, the rail is open from Vienna to Gmunden viâ Linz, Tegern See is about 5 hours from Munich the rail going half way.

{Miss H.: Holbrooke; see May 14 and May 27.

"impassible": probably meaning "impassable", less probably "impossible".

Miss Emily Hale Puckle, 1821-1891, can be safely identified through her brother, the Australian commissioner as Frederick Hale Puckle, 1823-1909. She would talk FEP's ear off; no surprise that he cannot remember the exact family relations. Actually another of her brothers, Rev. Benjamin Hale Puckle, 1822-1892, is rector of Grafham, Huntingdonshire (as was his father, also Benjamin, +1853), and married since 1853 to a daughter of Sir Maziere Brady, 1796-1871, Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Emily Puckle may be in Dresden to study at the renowned Academy of Arts (- most of whose professors are personal friends of the Prendergasts and the Preußers); she will die unmarried, and without any paintings known to the

Internet, in the house of her third brother George Hale Puckle, 1825-1909.

Now the drumroll: that third brother is the principal of Windermere College and a good friend of Annette Preußer and the Aufrères. These are probably the friends of Mrs. Whittle (via aunt Margaret) who have established the contact with the Seckendorffs, as mentioned on May 22. On June 28, FEP will name Miss Preusser explicitly in the analogous role.

Brighton: Frederick Hale Puckle has recently, on 04.05.1858, got married in Brighton, Victoria, Australia - not the place FEP imagines. Brighton in England is the place where Harry Dalrymple Prendergast had gone to school.

Adolf's message may be that although he does not disapprove of self-conscious women, he does not want to marry any such. This is what a traditional "real man" is supposed to say, true or not, to avoid being suspected of weakness and lack of responsibility. FEP finds that strange enough, but keeps his own opinion to himself.

Lockwitz: see glossary; the visitors are probably Jeffry, Margaret, and FEP. The Dubliners know the Preussers well, personally or from earlier correspondence, so that no further comment is required.}

{#74. Walk to Těplitz through the Erz mountain. - A bright blood red river. Butterflies. - Beer. - Aspect of Bohemia. - Miss Tudor. - Knapsack. Těplitz. June 12.}

Hotel

La Reine Imperiale

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 Rothes 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 was running over a bed of red lead, and strange to say getting redder and redder as you approached 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, clean, neat, and almost all the houses 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 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 to 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 the summit of the hills which command the view of Teplitz.

Here you get a magnificent 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 in three ways that I was in Bohemia, first in the cast of features 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 negligent Irish look which prevailed everywhere. At 9.15 p.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 been 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 tankard 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 me to drink beer. This morning I was not out of bed until 10(!) when I got some breakfast and then went out to look for Miss Tudor, for whom I had got a note from the Seckendorfs. I found her most luckily just as she was coming down the 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 to a Bohemian family with two very pretty gipsy-faced daughters, from Prag, of the name of von Korf.

We then ascended the hill called the Schlossberg which commands a splendid panorama of the country for miles round; it has somewhat the appearance of the central part of Down as seen from Slieve Donard, 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 Wien in a few days and will stop for some time near Gmunden in the Salzkammergut in the Tyrol, where I hope to meet her again in August. I have also got Mrs. Whittles adress in the south of Bavaria near the Boden 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 tomorrow I shall go back by the train as my feet are not in a condition to stand anymore 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 Saxon 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 coffeeroom 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 recollects the name. She also knew Mr. Day of Dublin and many of the county Antrim 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.

Perhaps I might join the geological with young S. 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 18/ or thereabouts. I should probably be able to find one or two from the class would at all events be respectable and young S. 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.

{Mügel: recte Müglitz; the footpath from there to Teplitz is 47 km over the mountains; the train continues through the Elbe valley, further east. (Mügel would be on the way to Leipzig, rather in the opposite direction.

The red colour of the creek is man-made, by iron ores from mining rubble.

Miss Tudor is already known to the Dubliners, but if she were a long-standing friend, her knowing the Irwins would not be such a coincidence. Presumably she is being "sent", recommended, to the Seckendorffs as a future lodging guest, like Miss Puckle was.

"Son in the constabulary": aunt Elizabeth's son John King Irwin 1833-1868, who had married a girl of 16 years on 14.04.1858. We will read more about him.}

{#74a. Journey back from Teplitz. Polytechnic lectures. Dresden June 13}
Dresden
3.30 p.m. June 13.th 1859

My dear Papa

Here I am in my old quarters again and have just read your letter of the 9.th I left Teplitz this morning at 9.40. a.m. and arrived here at 2.15.

I had got my dinner in Bodenbach, and was just in time for the coffee after dinner here, which was very agreeable.

The Baron had only arrived from Hamburg an hour before, they were all very glad to see me back, not having expected me till the evening, and somewhat to my surprise I heard the news of Palmerstons re-entry. The Germans look upon this as a great blow to them, for now they expect England will go with France, or at all events that they have no more chance of assistance from the west.

They say they don't care for England or her army but they speak in very respectful words of the fleet, the very name of a line of Battle ships seeming to inspire them with awe. I travelled with two young Belgians this morning - at least I think they were for they spoke French and were everlasting talking about Belgium.

You speak of bathing in the Elbe as being a refreshment; I have not yet tried it but by all accounts it is pretty much the same as a hot bath, and uncle Jeffry says that he has given up bathing in the river as it does not cool or clean you a bit.

As to the Polytechnic School there are lectures open to strangers for a small payment; but from what I have heard from Adolf, Scott Russell, Etlinger and others, one does not get much benefit from them, as the professors will not take any trouble with one. The professors too generally speaking are drunken dissipated scoundrels and very few of the scholars are gentlemen being mostly fellows who are learning to be mechanical engineers. Perhaps some of the out door lectures (afternoon expeditions) on botany and geology or engineering might be of advantage, but I doubt it, as from Adolfs account there is more beer drunken than work done in these. Mr. E's object when speaking of it was, I am sure, for the sake of the German I would learn there, but I could hardly be learning and speaking more than I am at present, -

I believe what uncle Frank says about the Prussians is very correct but our little colonel is a very quiet unassuming little man.

Francis E. Prendergast.

I managed my expences so that I have only brought back 1/3d in Austrian money.

{Mr. E: Ensell; see June 17 below.}

{#75. In a hurry: Going with the Von S.s to a garden concert. June 13}
Dresden
June 13. 1859

My dear mamma

I have just read your letter which I found here on my return and as I have told papa all, or nearly all, the news I shall only answer your questions.

As to the flannel, I could not exist without it, for when everyone else is complaining of the heat, I am engaging it greatly, - except that I cannot work over books; as long as I can walk or take exercise I find it not disagreeable - for which I have to thank the _flannel_, much to the surprise of the Germans who wonder that anyone can like to walk in such weather

As to the Guy Mannering, uncle Frank gave it to me long ago as a birth day present, but I never wrote my name in it. I think the only _borrowed_ book I have is 2 years before the mast which belongs to uncle Willy, but don't return it unless he asks for it.

The Seckendorfs, servants and all, call me _Mr._ Prendergast, at Hoghes everyone said Herr Prendergast, but English people in Dresden, generally speaking, are called Mr., Mrs. and Miss by way of determining to what nation they belong.

There is no fruit ripe yet, except cherries and strawberries, but both are dear as yet. Gooseberries are not much sought after in Germany and are much inferior to our own. I look upon uncle Georges movements as a myth, and until he has_ gone, or said "_upon his honour_" he is is going, I shall doubt the fact.

The Elbe water does not look enticing for bathing as it is of a dunduckety yellow mud colour, somewhat like the Rostrevor river in a flood but much yellower.

I am writing this in a great hurry as the S's are going at 5 oclock to a concert - open air - in the Grosser Garten and I want to go with them.

I hope you may get aunt Elizabeth to come up, and don't forget to ask her if she remembers meeting Miss Tudor at Glenarm - or the other place near - I forget the mane of it - Carnlough qu?

Francis E. Prendergast

this letter will be over weight of course, but I can't help it.

PS tell papa my expences were under 15/ everything included.

{Guy Mannering: novel by Walter Scott, 1815; mamma seems to have found the book among FEP's belongings and wondered to whom it belongs.

"Two Years Before the Mast": autobiographical adventure novel by the US author Richard Henry Dana Jr., 1840.}

{#76. Projected visit of Dr. Seiler to Ireland. - New French master. - No good shoes in Germany. Dresden June 17.}

Dresden

June 17. 1859.

My dear Papa,

I received your letter of Sunday the day before yesterday from Carola Strasse, and am now beginning this although half expecting one from you to day. You will probably see Dr. Seiler in the course of a fortnight or so, and he having heard of your saying that with uncle Frank's and uncle Willie's German you could make him at home, desired me to say he was particularly anxious to have opportunities of speaking English. He speaks it nearly as distinctly as he speaks German, but that is not saying much, however he understands it perfectly having been a good deal in England.

Uncle Jeffry asked me into tea to meet him the evening before last, and to dinner yesterday. Miss Preusser was there and we afterwards drove out to Lockwitz and drank tea there; on coming home uncle Jeffry arranged about money with me; our calculations were that I would require about £ 22 in the coming 7 weeks and be accordingly left 200 Thalers (£ 30) with me.

I shall not take anything in hand about the Polytechnic at present at all events, the only things I could attend would be the Geological excursions and as I should have to pay £ 1..7 for the 6 remaining excursions it would never do.

I am sure that Mr. Ensell has some idea in his head that I am at Hughes and not learning to speak german for the want of practice, I know at least that his memory is none of the best, so I dare say he imagines I am there still.

We have had a great change in the weather here it having suddenly got cool - almost cold and a regular gale is now blowing, I don't believe that they know what a storm is in Dresden, at least I have never seen anything like one here, and they always grumble at the least little breeze.

My French master (Comte) is going back to Switzerland next week and i must say I am not sorry at his departure for he is a most unamiable being though not a bad master. He has recommended one of his countrymen to me, who I am going to take, as he is said to be very good.

My feet I am glad to say have quite recovered from the effects of my Teplitz walk; I have also got Emmersons shoes, the soles of which were worn out, resoled, and shall keep them for my tour; good, lasting shoes are not to be had in Dresden for the simple reason that they have no good leather in Germany. I am not writing any more projects until I hear from you again which I suppose will be on Monday morning this being Saturday evening.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Emmerson: perhaps a shoemaker in Ireland, who works with durable leather?}

{#77. Touring projects. Mons. Ayez, the new French Master, a handsome, pleasing young man. Dresden. June 17.}

Dresden
June 17. 1859

My dear mamma,

I was very glad to get your note of Sunday, as well as Papas, though both were so short. You will be seeing Dr. Seiler soon, who I dare say will rather surprise you. He is fearfully shortsighted and has an odd shy embarrassed manner which I think is the consequence of his not being quite able to see who he is speaking to. Do not ask him to take any parcel for you to Dresden unless you have something small and important. If you do send anything you might send a couple of shirt collars for I cannot get them here of the kind I want, at least I cant find any.

When I am going away I must get a strong box for my books as I look upon the old trunk as a very inconvenient and unsafe way of transporting them or even for leaving them here at rest.

My present Idea of my journey would be to go down to the Lake of Constance viâ Nurnberg and Ausberg, per rail, from the Lake of Constance through the Eastern (German) half of Switzerland down to the province of Ticino to get a view of the Lago Maggiore and perhaps Como, then back through Switzerland and the Tyrol to Innsbruck, from thence to Tegern See and Munich, back to Tegern See and thence via Salzburg and the Salzkammergut to Linz, and thence by rail or steamer to Vienna and back to Dresden viâ Prague; when I have mentioned no means of transit i propose to go on foot. This tour I think might be performed in less than two months though I don't pretend to say that i have made any calculations about it.

Saturday 18.th I heard from uncle Frank yesterday; strange to say the letter had come open and the Prussian Postoffice officials at Verviers had sealed it up again. Tell him this. I have not heard anything of the Ensors of any denomination excepting uncle George, this long time, what are they all about?

I had intended making a three sheet letter out of this, but as papa's letter which I was expecting has not come I shall stop at two. I don't think I told you that on my Teplitz trip I saw a rather large & beautiful green lizard as well as many small brown ones. You ask me which of my masters I liked best, at present I like my German master Herr Nauwerck the best, but I think it is probably that I shall like my new French (Swiss) master better; he is a young, gentlemanly, agreeable and very handsome young fellow of about 24, his name is Ayez, and young S. is acquainted with him. I shall probably tell you more about him another time.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{"Nurnberg and Ausberg": Nürnberg and Augsburg.

"Ayez": recte Pierre Ayer.}

{#78. A day with the Boytons and Capt. Montgomery at the Villa. Prussian troops (60'000) to pass through Dresden. Dresden. June 22nd.}
Dresden.
June 22.d 1859.

My dear mamma,

On Monday I, in company with young S. spent a very pleasant day with the Boytons and Capt. Montgomery at Paradise, a most lovely spot about 4 miles to the west on the Elbe and so called from the splendid view it commands We went off at 10 a.m. by the steamer which takes an hour to get down to the nearest point to Paradise, in walking up we passed through a pine wood full of bilberries and wild strawberries which were so good that we stopped there for more than an hour and eat so much that I began to get alarmed at the quantity, but they only improved our appetite.

On arriving at the house we asked in German if they were at home, when a _rich Donegal_ brogue replied, "I think they are _surr_ I'll gaw and see" which you may imagine greatly delighted me; we were immediately invited to dinner and spent a very pleasant day there dining and taking tea in the open air in a bower, in the regular German fashion, which I highly approve of.

22.d Your letter (which came at last) arrived this evening, and I now proceed to answer your questions. You ask about the roads; it would be hard to _lose_ oneself in Saxony on account of the sign posts at every cross road, but it is very easy to _go astray_ and make roundabouts even from this very cause.

One does not meet many people considering how thickly the country is inhabited, and at this particular time scarcely anybody is to be seen in the fields. Miss Tudor is at Teplitz to bathe in consequence of sciatica, rheumatism or some such thing. I did not try to speak French with the Belgians as I do not fancy speaking to people in a railway carriage; with my French master I never speak anything but French, my former master hardly understood German at all, and my present very little, all understand a little English, that is, to read it, not to speak or understand it.

Georgy I have not yet heard from and Jack has not written to me for nearly 3 months!

40,000 Prussians are _reported_ to be coming through Dresden in the first week of July en route for the Rhine provinces which is very probably. Small bodies of Austrians are now passing through, but nobody takes any notice of them now.

We have had very heavy rain yesterday and to day and there seems prospect of more.

Francis E Prendergast

Make aunt Elizabeth give a line.

{"Paradise": Paradies, a hill in Radebeul-Niederlößnitz, with a fashionable restaurant (where the young men would have dined if the Boytons had not been at home or failed to invite them). The Boyton/Montgomery family now seems to inhabit a villa near the top. "Young Boyton" William Charles, however, has left for Cambridge.}

{#79. Six months fencing lessons - Teach the Von S.'s boxing. Getting Knapsack ready. Dresden June 22}
Dresden
June 22.d 1859.

My dear Papa,

Uncle Jeffry did not go until Tuesday, so I dined with him on Sunday as usual; aunt Margaret was complaining greatly about the journey and saying she wished she had not to go, but nevertheless she appeared to me to be looking better and in better spirits than I had seen her since I came here. I have had a fencing lesson this morning, and have been repeating, some of it with a stick and the consequence is that I can hardly write. Staberoh gave me a lesson with the rapier or straight cut-sword on Monday and he is going to give me a few more lessons in it and also in the sabre, which is almost like a Turkish scimeter, being greatly curved in the blade; however I don't like anything so well as the florettes or foils. I have now been at work with the foils nearly six months and nothing but the school exercises without masks in this time, but now as I have gone through the course he is going to set to work with the masks.

Three soldiers were killed here, or rather at Dippoldiswalda, a place ten miles off, yesterday by the lightning, and 7 more injured, they were at the bayonet exercise in a field and the bayonets are supposed to have attracted the lightning. Austrian troops have begun to pass through again, 6000 are said to have past but no one troubles their heads about them now. We paid a visit to the Boytons and Captain Montgomery on Monday, and I made out that the Boytons are, (as well as Captain M.) from Conway house near Rapboe and Mrs. Boytons mother comes from Ards house, they are cousins of Montgomery the Zoologist in Dublin and seem to have the same tastes, for Mrs. B. has a large collection of insects, snakes, lizards, &c.

I got a letter from uncle F. again on Monday, enclosing one from Sharpe and Driscoll all of which shall be replied to in due course of time.

As to my kit when travelling, I shall take (extra what i have on) a light pair of trousers, light waistcoat and jacket, a light flannel shirts, a collar, 2 pair of socks, slippers, and night shirt. On the top of the knapsack I shall take the plaid rolled up, not merely as a protection against rain but also as covering at night, for I can't manage to sleep under a feather bed in summer and they only give you one sheet in Germany. This I think ought not to weigh more than a stone or 15 pounds. A long cane or bamboo stick must be added to this equipment. Braces I have given up wearing and I find it a great luxury to be without them.

8. p.m. Your letter of the 18th has just arrived. As to the shoes, there is no use looking for them here; I have got Emmersons strongly soled and shall put a lot of nails in the soles myself, as I could not persuade the shoemaker to do it. Perhaps I might get a good pair in Switzerland where people walk, which is more than they do in Saxony. I shall set about getting my kit in order at once, for you have no idea what trouble there is getting anything in the miserable shops here. 14 p.m. My hand is now hardly able to hold the pen as, for the last hour and a half I have been teaching and practicing boxing with the two young S's, changeing with them as they got tired and using each arm turn about. The baron is going off to Berlin tomorrow morning for a day or two, and Miss Puckle for a similar time to Schlandau, and on Saturday Adolf goes off till Monday with his class to the S. S. so the house will be pretty empty. I like my new French master very much and I think that there is a probability of my learning more from him than from Comte; I really think he is the handsomest young fellow I ever saw, and Adolf, who knows him personally, says his character is equal to his countenance which is saying a great deal.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Journey: to Marienbad, a watering place in Bohemia, 40 km beyond Carlsbad to the south; Jeffry and Margaret will check in at the lodging house "Germania" on the 23.06., with two servants.

"scimeter": scimitar

"Braces": called suspenders in US English.}

{#80. Preparations for tour - The Russian Colonel going away. - A Baltimore lady Coming - Dresden. June 28.}

Dresden

June 28. 1859

My dear Papa,

Your letter of the 23d arrived yesterday. I have had no letter from uncle Jeffry as yet - from Marienbad I mean. I have already given you a list of the clothes I intend to take, and as I intend that they shall all go into a knapsack which I shall always have with me, it must be as light as possible; having a complete change with me perhaps it might not be necessary to carry any extra covering: my plaid I am afraid is too heavy and I am afraid I could not find any light waterproff here. A bag or trunk would cost a great deal for transport and would tie me down too much

My French master (Ayez) is going off to Switzerland the last week in July by the Ausburg and Lindau route, and then going on foot from that to a place a little south of Bern - not direct but seeing scenery on the way, and I think it is very possible I may go with him; if we could arrange it it would be very agreeable for me as well as advantageous; I shall do all my railway travelling 3d class which is an immense saving and in summer is pleasanter than the hot stuffed 2nd class. From the enclosed slip you

will have some idea of the expence and time required to get southwards. I calculate the railway expences to Lindau at £ 1.10 which with a night a Nuremberg you may reckon as £ 2. I shall not take any cap, for the wide awake would not go into a knapsack.

I do not exactly know what money to take with me, but uncle Jeffry says he think that Prussian dollars in silver or paper are as good as anything and have their full value everywhere. I must get a map and pocket compass of course, but there will be little or no trouble about that, also a small hair brush. I shall be very glad indeed to get off for it is very difficult to work in the house in this hot weather

I wish you would say something decisive about my winter stay in Dresden for the Baron has been asking me about it and said if he thought I was coming back for two or three months in the winter he would keep a room for me. The colonel goes away in the middle of July and in his place comes a Miss O'Sullivan who Miss Preusser has recommended to the Ss, and who is going to stay the winter here. As soon as I am off an American lady comes who is also going to stop the winter here. I saw her and her husband who was here but is now gone off, they both seemed unusually well bred people and I am sure would be pleasant companions. Miss Puckle is not going to stay long so that when I come back there would be just room for me. I like the idea of being here for the winter very much, but nothing would induce me to remaing longer than the beginning of March or indeed scarcely so long, I was so out of condition half unwell last spring.

The Baron wants to know before I go and then everything would be settled. About Miss O'Sullivan I only know that she is now in Donegal, is a friend of the Goulds of Derry (Miss Preussers friends), is about 22, has lost her father and some brothers lately and has been recommended a change of scene, more than this Miss Preusser could not tell me. The American lady is from Baltimore and her husband is a large slaveowner. They (She I mean the husband is not coming) were recommended by the Crothers and Baldwin faction

Francis E. Prendergast.

{We learn that Annette Preußer is now established as Seckendorff's agent and talks to FEP often and frankly.

"Goulds of Derry": a good friend of Annette Preußer was the late Limmerick politician Wyndham Goold, 1812-1854, oftentimes seen in Leipzig in connection with the composers William Sterndale Bennett and Arthur O'Leary, even closer friends of Annette's. We know that he has relatives in Raphoe. The name is of course very common and exists in Derry as well, in both spellings.

NB: to recommend house guests reliably, a flawless reputation does not suffice, a realistic judgment of others is essential as well; the latter is Annette's strong point and secret of success later in English social politics.

"She I mean ...": added afterwards with an insertion sign, which I take the liberty to symbolize by parentheses. Slave-ownership is something of a disqualification, however well-bred the owner.

Crothers and Baldwin: two young American Misses we have met before, on May 29, friends (not lodgers) of Seckendorff's.}

{#81. A Sunday at Mr. Preusser's. Two pretty Swedish girls, and two pretty Hungarians there. Dresden. June 28.}

Dresden.

June 28.th 1859

My dear mamma

I am very much obliged to you for the pattern of the collar, but I have got some already, I happened to ask Cap. Montgomery and he directed me to a shop where I found them. I spent a very pleasant Sunday at the Preussers who had a great collection of people viz. 4 Preussers, Mrs. P's brother, a Miss Ward, a Swedish countess and her daughter; then two very pretty young ladies, daughters of an Hungarian lady who is married to a Saxon count, two cavalry officers who are quartered there, two Polytechnicers, one from Leipsic, the other from Frankfort, and two young Londoners who are at school in Dresden, thus forming a large assemblage.

I have got some woolen stockings which I find a great improvement on the cotton for walking.

On Saturday I took a long stretch to a place called Radeberg which is about 11 miles off to the north west, this distance i did (there and back) in 5½ hours, but it is an uninteresting walk and there is nothing to be seen when you get there. I do not know how far I shall be able to get on my tour, but supposing I am on foot the whole time and walk 22 miles a day which gives 150 miles a week I would be able to see a good deal; you may reckon how far that would take me in 6 weeks, and 22 miles a day is a moderate calculation.

You need not send me any more envelopes for I am overstocked at present, but send the straw paper when you have room.

As soon as I get an answer from uncle Frank I shall look for a map which is one of the chief points. It has been very hot indeed to day and we have the hot weather, bright sun, and no clouds again.

It is late now and I have to be up very early tomorrow so I must close.

Francis E. Prendergast

{Collar: it seems that Dr. Seiler is back from his trip to Dublin and has brought the little parcel as mentioned on June 17.

"4 Preussers": probably Gustav, Emma, Annette, and Luise, who live at Lockwitz.

"Mrs. P's brother": Paul Gotthelf Freiherr von Gutschmid, who is also the widower of Isidora, Annette's sister and Emma's stepdaughter. He is a high civil servant in Dresden.

Miss Ward: this name is too common for me to know who is meant. In George A. Aufrère's testament of 1880 he bequeathes to Mrs. "Charlotte Ward now residing at 32 Kensington Square London the sum of Five hundred pounds"; a "Mr. Ward" will be Annette Preußer's collaborator in Hackney 1869.}

{#82. Mons. Ayez will go to Switzerland 15th July. Hope to go with him. Will board with some Swiss family for 5 weeks. Dresden June 30. July 2.}
Dresden
June 30.th 1859.

My dear Papa,

I have had no news from anybody since I last wrote to you, and the increase of the heat is the only novelty here. My room is hardly endurable between 10 am and 1, and about 3 p.m. I get a second edition of reflected heat. I have ordered a Jacket and a pair of trousers from the tailor, of a most extraordinarily light and thin stuff which ought to pack beautifully.

My French master is going off some day between the 17th & 24th of July and if you are content that I should go off then I should propose going with him. His tour is to go viâ rail to Zürich and from that on foot viâ Lucerne the Rigi Interlaken Junfrau Rhone valley & Lake of Geneva to Bulle. I am not sure but that he may have friends to go with and might not like a strangers company, but I do not think this is the case. He says that on foot, living, guides, and all expences included you (an Englishman he means not a Swiss, for he can do it cheaper) may travel "en prince" for 3 dollars (9/) a day. Supposing I had got as far as Geneva I should then come round through Savoy viâ Chamoni, Rhone Valley, Scrüplon, across Lake of Maggiore up Lac de Como over the Splügen, thorough the Engadin, and so up to Innsbruck and home viâ Tegern See, Munich and back to Dresden, leaving Vienna & Salzkammergut for another time.

This is not of course a route to be stuck to, but to be improved upon or altered according to circumstances. I do not know what I shall do about an over covering for it seems to me that it would be almost impossible to carry the plaid it is so heavy; I was not aware of its weight until now.

I am scarcely so intimate with Mrs. Whittle as to expect to be invited to stop, if I did go there, but it is much out of any possible route that I may take.

My entire equipment will be of cloth or flannel excepting waistcoat.

I must be on the look out for some maps now - of Switzerland I mean. Keller is said to be antiquated and surpassed.

I am very anxious to be getting off for the heat is increasing to a fearful extent, (Dresden is renowned for extremes of heat and cold) and

it is almost impossible to work in the house; the actual power of the sun does not seem to me so great, but it is the heated stifling air which is so overpowering. I have tried all windows open - all shut - everything in fact but it is no use trying to fight against king Heat The worst too is that the nights are so hot until about 1 or 2 o'clock a.m., when the thermometer often falls to within one degree of freezing point! Colds in consequence are very plentiful.

I however stand the heat and cold much better than the natives in consequence of sticking to cloth and flannel which is much cooler than linen. The heat and the war are the two - and only, subjects of conversation here at present. I am greatly surprised at not hearing from uncle Jeffry; he said he would write immediately and it is now nearly a fortnight and I have heard nothing from him yet.

2.d I think your idea for my staying here from October to January is a very good one, and my wish will now be to get off about the 20th or thereabouts, as all my master's months end from the 15th to the 20.th and that will avoid entering a new month; I shall then make my way down towards the Lake of Geneva and try to get into some family either there, or in Savoy for two or three weeks, and then begin to work my way back viâ Insbruck and Munich. I am going to get a second flannel shirt, a map of Switzerland, a small brush and a pocket compass to day - or rather going to look for them.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Mrs. Whittle: As we have read on June 12, FEP knows the new address of James and Catherine Whittle, viz. Schloss Syrgenstein in Heimenkirch, 20 km northeast of Lindau/Bodensee, purchased in 1858. Uncle Jeffry would be the one who could arrange an invitation, but he is absent. FEP used to look forward to meeting the Allens there as visitors as well, and he will be passing Lindau anyway, but now he is no longer willing to lose precious holiday time there. Another reason must be his wish to travel with Pierre Ayer, who is invaluable as an esteemed companion, guide, and translator - free lessons in French included.

Masters' months: their fee seems to be fixed "per month or part thereof".}

{#83. Open air Concert. The Von S.s + two pretty Americans and a still prettier German of the party - Boat down the Elbe. Dresden. July 2d.}
Dresden
July 2.nd 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 Link'sche 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 concert; 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 oclock supper which was the liveliest supper I was ever present at, and as we had to escort the ladies home afterwards, 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 Charly 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 Nap. but Ayez, like most of those in the French half of Switzerland, is French in feelings through and through, but he is not so violent against the Germans as 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 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 S's 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 merriness.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Lincke'sches Bad: an entertainment complex comprising a concert hall, theatre (fit for operas), restaurant, and bath, at the Prießnitz creek in the northeastern corner of the city. Deviating spellings abound.

"Louis Nap.": Napoleon III.; his regime has been Britain's ally in the Crimean war and is currently Saxony's wartime enemy. As a person and ruler he is often criticised.

"we would have a family": after half a year of speaking German, homesickness strikes, against which any native speaker of English will be a welcome relief.}

{#84. Excessive heat. - Buy a Knapsack - and Kellers Map of Switzerland. Dresden July 4.}
Dresden.
5. p.m.
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 Vevay.

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 now (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. The Ss 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 blind to the opposite wall! It is impossible 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 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 7.th I have purchased what the Germans call a Reisetashce 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 Ayez, I hope to get another with permission to start about the 17.th 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. Prendergast.

{#85. Further preparations. Endressed - building at Dresden. July 7.}
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 4d & 2d stamp was not charged, so of course the letters now only cost 6d. Uncle Jeffry told me that he would write on arriving at Marienbad, but 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 Kensington races. I had known from seeing Charley throwing weights at Ardress 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 mor 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 anyond 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 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.

{#86. Seizure after bathing in the Elbe. - Fireflies. - Glad to have leave to join Ayez. - Peace announced. Dresden. July 11. 13.th}

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 Ayez; I made 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 temperature 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 and civilized country and I wish with all my heart that I had 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 S'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 pale green light and looked most beautiful, they are only to be seen in such numbers when the summer is unusually 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° oaf Fahrenheit! Has it been unusually hot this year in Ireland?

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 Ayez wishes. He 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 4.15 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 Ayez, for without my asking him 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 Marienbad takes just the same time as to Ireland!!!

The news of the peace arrived yesterday 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. Prendergast.

{Prussia: supposed to be allied with Austria and Saxony, but not actually involved, and about to be their adversary in the next war.}

{#87. To Start on 17th- Take a complete Changed-dress in Knapsack.
Dresden. July 13.}
{Missing}

{#88. Send photograph. - Give one to the Von S,s. - The pretty bride and
her mother. - A pleasure evening, and a dance. Dresden. July 16.}
Dresden
July 16. 1859.

My dear mamma

I enclose a photograph for you which I got taken the day before yesterday
as I thought you would like to have it. A few days ago the Baroness said
at dinner that she had a great request, would I give her my photograph
for her album? So accordingly I got another for her; they are both
supposed to be very like and are certainly cheap enough.

Yesterday was the Baroness's birthday, and we had the Bride and her
mother here, we had a very pleasant evening and even got as far as a
little dancing.

Adolf does not stay at home the whole summer but is generally quartered
out in the country some miles off making surveys for imaginary railways
&c.

I believe that the S's are really very sorry that I am going away and
indeed I am very sorry to leave them. I have not time to write anymore,
and must now take this to the post.

Francis E Prendergast

Look at my picture in a looking-glass as that gives the correct position.

{Birthday: 47 years old.

Bride: since she comes with her mother as guests, it cannot be Anna.
Perhaps Adolf's fiancée? The Dubliners are in the know already!

Looking-glass: the cheap photographer took the wrong side of the negative
and thus produced a mirror image. A possible reason is that FEP has his
hair parted on the right hand side, opposed to what the photographer may
feel to be the standard. Actually there is one photo in FEP's photo
album, labeled "1860", on which the buttons of the coat appear on the
wrong side, suggesting that it may also be mirrored. However, the parted
hair looks exactly as on the later photos with standard buttoning, so
that we can rather assume that on the 1860 photo he is wearing a non-
standard coat.}

{#89. Leave Dresden at 2.45 p. as with Ayez for Zurich. July 16.}
Dresden

July 16. 1859.
Saturday. 11. a.m.

My dear papa

This afternoon I leave for Lindau at 2.45 p.m. in company with Ayez. I take Napoleons with me as the best coin, uncle Jeffry wrote to tell me to take what remained of the 30 £ he had given me before he left, with me; accordingly as there were 35 dollars (£ 5..5.) unused I changed them into gold as well as half the £ 30. order he had sent me, and got an order on a banke in Geneva for the other half so as not to have to carry so much gold with me.

After all i am taking my plaid, though adds greatly to the weight; however uncle Frank wrote to me that I could easily leave it at my hotel, and either call or send for it afterwards. I cannot give you the weight of my traps but Ayez, Adolf and I, all guess it at about 10 pounds - not more at all events, including plaid. I got a letter from uncle Joe yesterday telling me what to do in cases of emergency &c, he seems to think that the grand point is to avoid getting a chill from wet clothes, and recommends hot blankets and hot strong tea as safe and good remedies. I am travelling in a cloth waistcoat and have a light linen on to use when this one is too hot. Miss S. has given me a letter of introduction to a family of Lausanne of whom they had two young ladies staying here to learn German. I asked if they thought I could get into the family, but the S's do not seem to think it probable - nor indeed is there much chance of my seeing them, as they are mostly away in summer. Uncle Joe also gave me the address of an English doctor residing on the Lake of Orta (Sardinia)

Uncle Willis letter came at the same time with your last.

My dates (as at present arranged) will be somewhat of this kind, probably on or about the 21st or 22d. at Interlaken, Geneva 28th-31st. These can only be approximate. Don't write to Bern unless you hear further from me.

I hav got Kellers map as the safest one that I could find here.

I must shut up now, and you will probably hear from me from Lindau or Zürich.

Francis E. Prendergast.

{Vol. 2, "msb"}
In the train near Nurnberg
July 17. 1859
8.15 a.m.

My dear Papa

I am now fairly on my journey and have been in the rail since 2.15 p.m. yesterday, Ayez is sitting opposite to me studying a Swiss guide book.

Since I left Dresden I have been twice taken for a German and once for a Frenchman the latter time by a Dane from Copenhagen; he was very inquisitive first asking if I was French and then guessing at every possible German state got rather cross at my answering "nein" to all his guesses and at last said "then where the devil do you come from"?!!! He seemed to have a great respect for the English and added "we have not forgotten Nelsons bombardment".

4. p.m. near Augsburg

I have been greatly delighted at seeing some turf near this, I think it is the first I have seen in Germany.

I have now been just 24 hours in the train which is rather hard work in this hot weather; the plaid has already been of great service as a cushion.

The costumes of the peasants here are very curious and as this is Sunday I see them to great advantage. Many of the men look very Irish both in costume and features.

Zürich 22 July. 9.15 p.m.

We arrived at Lindau all right last night, and left this morning per second steamer at 9.0 a.m. and reached Rorchach in 1½ hour I never saw anything like the quantity and tameness of the fish there, they were in myriads and came in shoals to the very edge. What they were I don't know, but some of them were of a lovely blue colour.

We missed
