

Hyères.

Nov. 8. 1865

My dear Mamma,

This morning arrived yours of 4th, also one from J. I. P. of 5th enclosing a note from E. M. P.

I am glad you saw the Severn Valley and Iron-bridge; strangers generally thought the town a horrid place, but I liked it notwithstanding.

The solid comforts (plenty of good food, cash, good coal and cheerful fires in clean bright rooms)

of the black country, strangers never see nor think about. Whitnores - Apley - is a lovely place and the house is very fine; the former

man ruined himself by the house and place; it was the scene of J. F.'s pic-nic. Worcester is one of the nicest stations I know anywhere and

is peculiar in having a glass roof with no more iron than required for support; in hot summer weather, it gets ~~over~~ overpoweringly hot inside.

Cagham and Swigg were at Wolverhampton;

R. Fogarty and Notcutt at Bridgnorth, Lynda

in London office, J. F. everywhere and some

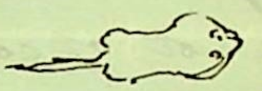
talk of Josselyn's going down also on this

same work (Parliamentary for Bridgnorth and

W. hampton) however I don't fancy Josselyn would

give up permanent work with the Gt. Eastern Ry.

for temporary work like this. They were all to
be up in town soon. I am very much in fa-
-vour of all accounts being sent in at once.
My cough is not gone yet but is much less.
Saturday last I had a long walk round by the
village of Carqueirannes at western side
of the Rade de Giers. It is a lovely bay open
only to the south and I observe larger trees and
more vigorous vegetation than hereabouts,
fine Olms, pines and huge old olives, the
latter the largest I have yet ~~ex~~ seen. At
the western side of this same bay is a fountain
said to be Roman and not far from it the
remains of the old Roman town and naval station
of Pomporianon, ruins just like those at Ubro-
-ster running into the sea. All along this
bay the large heath grows profusely, and the red
and green soft ~~perhaps~~ ^{sandstone} porphyry crops out on
the shore; this tideless shore seems very un-
-interesting. I wish you would look in my Arch
(2nd shelf from top near window parlour bookcase)
and see if you can find anything about
tide in Mediterranean - I fancy there is a tide
of 18 to 24 inches, rise and fall, from what I
see. The road menders here I observe generally

have a pet ^agōt instead of a dog with them,
I suppose, because its feeding costs nothing!
On Sunday for the first time I saw a live
"mantis" or "praying insect", curious to look
at but sluggish and uninteresting otherwise.
In the afternoon I went down to the shore
and in one of the etangs there close to the edge
I saw a flat fish of this shape,  mud-
coloured and about the size of my hand (not
including tail) I stirred it up and it went
off into deeper water; it struck me as being like
the pictures ^{one of} the electrical fish (not eel) per-
-haps you ^{could} find it in "Book of Plates" in little
bookcase in drawingroom. (bottom shelf, parlour
side). Does Papa know if the rhododendron grows
wild here - I saw a bush like one the other day
but forgot to examine it. The berries of the
arbutus are magnificent, so large and the colour
so bright; it is a very local shrub here, growing
profusely in some parts, and not ^{at} all in others.
I don't think I told you that they fry the potatoes
here in oil, they are delicious; however I do
not like all their oil dishes; for instance peas
boiled in oil, they are not bad, but too rich.
Olives I tried one day and did not like them

salt and oil ~~to~~ being the prevailing taste with
a dash of tar or turpentine. These were preser-
-ved green olives - not ripe ones. On Monday
I had a tête-à-tête dinner with a gentleman
who turned out to be Dr Edwin Lee who has
written medical books on this and other places.
He is of course well known (by reputation) to J.S.P.;
I did not of course ~~see~~ know who the stranger
was, but on asking him if he had been here before
he said he had written about this place, whereon
I bowed and said I supposed he was Dr Lee
(trickily I knew all about him). He then let
me his book to read, a 2nd edition of which
had been just sent out to him, and which I
was very glad to see. He was en route to spend
the winter at Mentone and asked me to come
and see him there at the Hotel de Londres, if I
should chance to be there during the season.
He seemed very common place, and I could not
hit on any subject on which he would talk with
interest. He is often at this hotel. I have not
done anything about getting a waister either in
France or otherwise and do not see any particular
object in so doing. I think it is generally better to
work by oneself unless when beginning a new
subject. It is a regular "set-in" rain storm to day.
Please forward enclosed. Your affect. son Francis G. Prendergast