

Hyères.

Nov. 17. 1865.

My dear Mamma

Some people have come at last, and we had eight at the table d'hôte and four languages spoken! The two Poles talk Polish, French and German, of course I converse with them ^{chiefly} in the latter language, then there was a family of four French people, a lady, two daughters and a son; they talk in whispers and seem all very shy. Then Roberts and I talk English, so that makes up four languages. I never before came across any Poles or Russians who habitually spoke their own language. What is the name of the Bonds place at Edgeworthstown, I have twice seen it written, but neither time distinctly? Yesterday I walked into Toulon (11 miles) and prowled about the place for a couple of hours. It is dirty and unattractive in the extreme, with a large variety of smells. I had never before seen much of the French men-of-war-men, who to my eyes look as unsailorlike as the soldiers do soldierly; somehow the sailors look as if the life or food did not agree with them, they look nice and cleanly, but pinched in the face and not hearty. The

officers seemed a nice gentlemanlike
set of fellows, apparently jolly enough.
I shall go and see the Dockyard sometime
if I can get someone else to come, but
do not care to go alone. Did I ever tell
you that Hyères Station and Hyères town
are 6 miles apart? This keeps many
people from stopping here en passant
and was probably the reason why the P's
did not stop here; it is well they did
not, as the omnibus would have been
a rough conveyance for Charles. I came
back by rail yesterday; the train seemed
to have many passengers for Cannes and
Nice. Few got out here, and those few
for other hotels. I have got a French
Master M. Payang and had a first lesson
from him today. We had more dew
here during the night before last than
I have yet seen, it was perceptible an
hour before sunset and the roads were
damp at 10 next morning even it in
bright sunshine. The walk into Toulon
put me in mind of the Valais, the moun-
-tains to the north are so fiery and rocky

looking with red bands of porphyry crop-
-ping out low down, and stony desert peaks
above. 18th Yours of 14th arrived yesterday
also one from aunt Flora. It is an hour
and a half from Marseilles to Toulon by
the fastest train. I had a letter from Miss
Nash a few days ago, but she had not then
received mine. She says the Obri's talk of
stopping in C^o Longford till Christmas, then
to Bath, the N's probably to follow in spring.
Some of the French mis-spelling I see on signs
&c, here amuses me *s'addraisser* for *s'adresser*
gainingatte for *guingette*^{ne}. They are still hard
at work gathering in the olives; they beat the
trees with long sticks and the olives come to the
ground much the worse for the fall, and the
labour of picking them up seems very great.
I wonder they never think of spreading a sheet
or blanket on the ground under the tree, it
would save the olives, and much labour too.
At Toulon I saw a London, Chatham & Dover
Ry. advertisement in French; there is no mis-
take about the wholesale way in which they
advertise! One very pleasant feature about
this country is the way it is all dotted over

with white houses, not like France in general where you scarcely ever see houses except in the towns and villages. They are nearly as plentiful here as in C^o. Armagh and that is saying a good deal. The French family have gone off into lodgings so we have only a party of 4 now and the Poles are only here for a visit to some friends, so they will probably soon go too. They have five large railway maps painted on the walls of the waiting rooms in most railway stations here and they look very fine. Roberts gets the Telegraph (Daily) but it is often stopped. Last year Dr Griffith took Punch, they stopped it very often and then he got the bookseller to put it inside the "Lancet" which he also got - they never examined the Lancet, it being a medical paper; was it not that an artful dodge?

However they found it out at last but not till near the end of the season. Yesterday I went to the Fontaine de S. Salvador (old Roman well, said to be at least) and wandered about on the shore there for some time, but did not find anything particularly interesting. Please forward enclosed. The weather continues the same, but I dare say the fresh outbreak of cholera at Toulon will frighten people away. The Poles wondered I went there even for a few hours! Yours affect. don F. G. P.