

Ayres.

Dec 12. 1865

My dear Maamma,

I heard from you the day I last wrote and also got the Sat. Review. I don't think people keep away from Ayres because it is dull but because of the cholera, which was so bad both at Toulon and Solles-Pont, both within eleven miles. Sunday, I received a kind letter from Mr Taylor from Marseilles. He says he is 80 - seven years younger than at P. M. P. and has quite given up work. His son managed the engine factory at Marseilles and their Shipyard at La Seyne (near Toulon).

Yesterday I had a letter from aunt Nannie.

For two or three days last week at the table d'hôte we had the celebrated Michelet; he spoke in ^a most peculiarly modulated voice ^{and} but ^{and} did not seem inclined to enter into conversation with anyone. Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands is at the hotel du Parc and was in church on Sunday, with a small retinue of dusky individuals; in the afternoon she went out driving in a brand new and very nice carriage and got upset on the Carqueiranne road, no damage was done except to the

carriage. On Friday Sir V. de V. and I took
the Squires a long walk over the hills and
on Saturday he and I had a good wholesome
sharp walk of 3 hours over the Piceaux park
the weather having got quite cool. On Saturday
a very young man named Brewell from
Christchurch (Hampshire) ~~had~~ arrived, but
he is a very mild specimen and not much
of an acquisition. Sunday was wonderfully
warm and fine; in church we had quite
thirty in the morning. Yesterday the Viceroy
left for Cannes, and in the afternoon I had
a very long walk by myself; it was so cold
that it was hard to get warm and I went
as hard as my legs would carry me for 3½
hours, up a new valley, across a nice
wild col, where there was a profusion of myrtle
literally bending under the weight of its
purple berries, down into a valley I had
never even seen before and then back by
the San Tropez road. I saw some very fine
cork trees, 6 to 8 feet in circumference,
they seldom grow so large about here.
I don't think you would like the fashion
of carrying guns, so prevalent here, almost

every man has a gun slung at his back
and woe betide any small birds he meets.

There are dogs of every size and kind
everywhere, but they seldom bark or look
cross. I think the people make friends
~~more~~ ^{all} with the various animals more
than we do. Cows and goats especially.

The Squires left for Cannes this morning.
Some, only, of the hotels on this coast have
salons, consequently it becomes a consider-
ation for a single man to go to an hotel
where there is a salon. At Nice only two
hotels have them, if reports are true. It is
such a civilized thing in an hotel to have
a public sitting room where one is always
sure to find company, and in the evenings
light, warmth and society. I see in ~~the~~
Galignani that Ben Burland has been ap-
-pointed Staff Surgeon, ^{R.A.} in reward of his ser-
vices during yellow fever at Bermuda.

If you see any paragraphs relative to the
appointments on the Great Eastern Railway
please send them to me. I see the committee
have advised that an Engineer and Loco. do.
be appointed in place of Sinclair who has

carriage. On Friday Sir O. de V. and I took the Squires a long walk over the hills and on Saturday he and I had a good wholesome sharp walk of 3 hours over the Picauze range the weather having got quite cool. On Saturday a very young man named Dorewell from Christchurch (Hampshire) had arrived, but he is a very mild specimen and not much of an acquisition. Sunday was wonderfully warm and fine; in church we had quite thirty in the morning. Yesterday the Beres left for Cannes, and in the afternoon I had a very long walk by myself; it was so cold that it was hard to get warm and I went as hard as my legs would carry me for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, up a new valley, across a nice wild col, where there was a profusion of myrtle literally bending under the weight of its purple berries, down into a valley I had never even seen before and then back by the San Tropez road. I saw some very fine cork trees, 6 to 8 feet in circumference, they seldom grow so large about here. I don't think you would like the fashion of carrying guns, so prevalent here, about

very many has a gun slung at his back and woe betide any small birds he meets. There are dogs of every size and kind everywhere, but they seldom bark or look cross. I think the people make friends more of with ^{all} the various animals more than we do. Cows and goats especially. The Squires left for Cannes this morning. Some, only, of the hotels on this coast have salons, consequently it becomes a consideration for a single man to go to an hotel where there is a salon. At Nice only two hotels have them, if reports are true. It is such a civilized thing in an hotel to have a public sitting room where one is always sure to find company, and in the evenings light, warmth and society. I see in ~~the~~ ^{the} Galignani that Ben ^{R.A.} Bland has been appointed Staff Surgeon, in reward of his services during yellow fever at Bermuda. If you see any paragraphs relative to the appointments on the Great Eastern Railway please send them to me. I see the committee have advised that an Engineer and Loco. do. be appointed in place of Sinclair who has

been holding both appointments as well as others and has been clearing many thousands a year. This may affect Josselyn's present position; for the better I hope.

I see the lavender, either the same as, or very similar to ours, growing wild about here, but there is not very much of it. Wild thyme of a gray colour is common enough. Today it is blowing fresh from the S.E. and is cold for Hyères. I see some oaks and maples in sheltered places quite green still, but generally the deciduous trees are either brown, or bare. The Louis Quatorze, two decker, training ship from Toulon, is now lying in the bay and we often hear her exercising with the heavy guns. Last evening I saw a good many large merchantmen at anchor in the bay. Tomorrow I finish with Payan and on Thursday morning mean to start for Cannes, it seems quite desolate here, now that "our family party" is broken up, but still, though glad I am going to see new places and faces, I am half sorry to leave this comfortable house where the host and all are so civil. Y. E. P.