

Cannes.

Jan. 1. 1866.

My dear Mamma,

The new year has set in with storm and torrents of rain. On Friday evening some suspicious looking clouds came up on the horizon and it rained in the night. On Saturday we were to have had a party to Grasse, 10 people to fill two carriages, the Ps (not C. M. P.) the Muthunks and Mrs Whaley. However we were driven back ignominiously by the rain. Saturday night more rain and Sunday dark and cold but dry, then last night it rained again and most of to day, now at 4 p.m. it is coming down in torrents. They have some tolerably good bells here and all this week they have been keeping up such a din - perhaps they will rest a little now. I don't remember if I ever told you that Jenny Lind is here and sings in our church; her voice is unpleasantly powerful if one is close. Lord Brougham is also here now and was in church on Sunday. A most picturesque Spanish pedlar has been going about here for many days - how

Please forward enclosed.

very peculiar the Spaniards look and dress.
I had a letter from Liversay on Saturday
but he had not much news. Tyndal
has got employment in Spain on some
works of Batemans - no particulars given.
R. F. was in Ireland. In a wood near
this I saw a yellow foxglove just coming
out, but it was only a single specimen.
In reading a book on Cannes by a young
Parisienne I was amused to find her
saying that the Englishwomen now
dress better than the Frenchwoman
and lamenting the times when it used
to be the other way. I don't think the
time seems to pass as quickly here as at
Hyères, perhaps because I do less in the
shape of work; to day I began to petanque
a little, but I read and talk a good
deal of French almost every day.

Jan. 2? No letters this morning.

Yesterday we had at dinner Mr. Mrs.
and Miss (aged 9) Kearney; they are
Mayo folk and are abroad for the
health and education of their daughter.

I do not much fancy them. It is
fine again to day. Your affectionate son
Francis J. Prendergast

Ville Marie Thérèse

Cannes. Jan. 4. 1866
My dear uncle Joe

John Travers has not yet arrived, but is
expected on Saturday. This house is elastic
and they have found rooms for us all.
There was a ball at the Cercle Nautique
on Tuesday and all the English were
supposed to be invited. I got an invi-
-tation but did not feel inclined to go,
Dawson Greene, Alice and the Muthons
went. It was a mixed affair, but
chiefly English. Alice was quite off
her head about this ball - her first public
one - and got chaffed no end by C. M. P.
and Dora. Yesterday I went up to a
village near this called le Carnet
("little Cannes") curiously situated in a
sunny corner of the hills to these parts.
It has a milder and warmer climate
than Cannes itself, but there being no
hotel or pension and few or no houses to
let, it is little resorted to. Rachel
died there. It is a curious crabbled
little place rising out of the middle of
orange groves now laden with their gold.

-den crop. When passing through the village it has a most picturesque effect to look through a dark passage open from the street to the garden and get a glimpse of the oranges shining among the dark polished green of the leaves.

They have already begun to send away the oranges largely from this neighbourhood. To day for the first time in my life I tasted at lunch a sea urchin of which immense quantities are consumed here; it is eaten uncooked, with bread and only a very small portion of the inside is eaten. It has no particular taste - more like oyster than anything else. A few days I saw a man going about with a unworled wolf, said to have been captured in the Alps. There are wild boars in the Esterels not many miles off, and they say wild cats &c. You talk of return ticket to Toulon or Marseilles - it was only lately that I

found out that return tickets are per-
-don issued in France and not at all
on this line. This was new to me and
will probably be so to you too?

I see by "Times" that the Caledonian, the
North British, and the Glasgow and South
Southwestern (the three companies posses-
-sing Scotland south of Clyde and Forth,
have agreed, or are about to do so, to with-
-draw all bill their bills in Parliament
this year and all those authorized ~~last~~
during the last three years which have
not yet ^{been} begun, the shareholders not
liking the idea of the immense number
of new lines and the consequent capital
required; this will be a great blow to
many Scotch engineers, Blair among
the number, as I see the Central Ter-
-minus at Glasgow and some Ayrshire
Lines (both given by the last company to
Blair) specially mentioned as ones to be
"shelved", temporarily at all events.
I don't envy Blair's assistants and super-
when that news came in; as we used to

say there was probably some "brimstone burned"
in the office! The last rain came
down in the form of snow on the dis-
-tant mountains which now look
splendid in their new pure white
mantle. All ~~real~~ relatives here
and at Bellevue send their loves; Mrs
Lysons wants to know if you lately saw
a paragraph in Naval and Military
Gazette saying that they presumed the
68th and some other regts. were on their
way home? Or do you know anything
about probable movements of 68th?
This letter is not to be posted till to-
-morrow - Friday 5th, Cannes^{is} badly
supplied with letter boxes; besides the
G. P. O. there is only one other box and
that not near this. In strangers list
of Nice the American arrivals seem
nearly to equal those of all other nations
put together. Here I do not see many
San Remo (beyond Mentone) I hear much
spoken about, it seems to be getting into
favour. Love to all at Combe Down and Bath
Your affectionate nephew
Francis C. Prendergast.