

Cannes. Jan. 16. 1866.

My dear Maumma,

On Saturday morning at 10.30 Dawson and I started off for Fréjus and had a lovely walk across the Esterels. The Col over which the road passes is 1000 feet above the sea and the mountains rise another 1000 feet above that. The Esterels are finely wooded with pine and cork trees, and the road is nicely laid out over the range; there is no town or village the whole way and only one or two auberges; it is 21 miles to Fréjus and we got there about 4.30; there are some very fine remains of a great Roman aqueduct on the road close to Fréjus which except the fine scenery is the only object of interest. We came back by rail. It was a glorious day without a cloud and a hot sun, though the wind was cold at the top of the pass. These Esterels were inhabited till comparatively recently by the Moerres and there is a village, or rather a cluster of villages in them still called le Tanneron.

the inhabitants of which do not intermarry with the Provincials and who are said still to preserve the Moorish features and characteristics. In the Esterels there are plenty of wild boars, and they say deer and wild cats. There is to be a battle of wild boars ("sangliers") some time soon by the members of the Cercle Nautique here. I have been reading two books lately which might interest Papa and uncle Frank, "Artemus Ward, his Book" and the "Story of the Great March" (Shermans, through the Southern States, written by his aid-de-camp Nichols). In mentioning the plants in flower in the garden I forgot to give scarlet geranium, heliotrope, anemones, violets and indeed many others. I had a letter from Roberto from Hyères yesterday; he seems to be improving, but says the only other Englishman in the Hotel is Capt. Blacker, there are two French people and the rest are Poles and Brazilians; there are great numbers of the latter on this coast this

season, particularly at Nice. It seems
some one has written an abusive account
of Hyères in "London Society" and Mr Brooke
and Dr Griffiths who both "believe in"
Hyères, are reported by Roberts to be nearly
indignation mad. There are more people
at Hyères than when I left but it is a
bad season. I have had a great catth
here, Deighton, Elise's maid has mended
all my socks. I wish Papa would look
at Arnolds Henry's "First Italian Book"
and if it seems good, get it and send it
out to me at once. I have got the loan
of an Italian grammar and Dictionary
from Miss Fatio, but I cannot pay
much for either of them.

Jan. 17. Yours of 12th-13th has just
arrived. Please forward both enclosed.
I dare say I can get anything I want in
the way of clothes at Nice: there is an
English tailor there. Cooper I will re-
member; he was with Ormsby and my-
self during part of our "geological survey"
and he used to tell Ormsby and me that

we were the queerest chaps he ever met"! Do you know if Mrs Ramadge will remain at the Craig? (I forget if that is the right name of the place?) There are 6 strangers bedrooms in this house. Mrs Niven and Miss Copland have the only private salon; Elsie's bedroom is used as the salon for that faction. Poor Mrs Niven is very ill (chest) and has not been visible for many days. Water-spouts are sometimes seen here, but there have not been any this winter. Yesterday was quite warm and springlike and to day seems the same. As Madame Tatio and I breakfast at 8 sharp and the mornings are so frosty and cold there is not much temptation to be moving earlier. The English posts arrive here at 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., one goes out at 2 p. m. Roberts said that the announcement ^{in Times} of death of a Roberts at Hyeres startled some of his people very much, but of course he did not get any condoling letters! Your affectionate son
Francis E. Prendergast