

Villa Marie-Thérèse.

My dear uncle Joe, Cannes. Jan. 18. 1866

I may as well begin by mentioning receipts from Tower Terrace of Times containing Fowlers speech or whatever it may be called. I believe he is famed for doing everything well but paying.

Dawson Greene and I had a grand walk right round the Esterels yesterday following the sea the whole way. We left at 10.30 a.m. and got to Agay, whence we took the rail home, at 4.30. It is most splendid scenery the whole way and an almost level path, much like that round Howth, passes between the railway and the sea the whole way from a little village called Napolé at the foot of the Esterels on this side.

The coast is rocky, the wild and picturesque hills running down to the water; they are covered with brushwood of cistus, rosemary, Spanish broom and heath and except where the rock crops out are one mass of verdure. The distance by rail from Cannes to Agay is 16 miles but as

we went it is over 20. On the way are two magnificent viaducts one of them really very fine and handsomely built. There are many nice coves, some of them with sandy or gravelly beaches and where such occur there are generally one or two fishermen's cottages to be seen, which except the Douaniers posts, 8 or 10 miles apart, are the only signs of life. There are villages of ruined cottages and indeed houses, but these were the temporary dwellings erected for the navvies and others employed during the construction of the line; these remains do not improve the landscape. At Agay we met a gentleman, ^{English} who had come down from Nice by rail for ~~an~~ days shooting but he had only got one partridge. Agay is only a few miles from Fréjus (on this side) and there is no station on the 16 miles between this and Agay and indeed Agay only consists of a few houses. It was hard to realize that it was January at there was a cloudless sky, hot sun and no wind; to day is the same. C.M.P. and all invalids enjoying this glorious weather. Your affect nephew F.E.P.