

Caunes. Jan. 20. 1866

My dear Mamma

Yours of 16th came yesterday, also the
I.L.N. The word you could not make
out in my letter was tramp.

I am glad to hear of the rocks. Has Papa
any of mine in use now? I wish
for the sake of the small birds that
this place, and indeed all France was
proclaimed; you have no idea how dead
the all but complete absence of small
birds makes the country. On our walk
to Agay we saw one hawk, one robin
and few small birds in the heath; I
don't think I had seen as many in all
the time I have been at Caunes.

Coming through the market this morning
I saw many curious fish, mackerel
the only English one I observed; they
get and eat the cuttle fish here and it
is said to be very good. I see many
women here with distaffs, what a strange
way of working it is! I see Fowlers
great Bridge across the Severn is likely
never to be made as they talk of building

a cheaper one higher up, proposed by the
Midland Ry. who I believe have got the
bill for it. What time does the evening
post arrive? Is it bronchitis that down
is supposed to have?

Yesterday I walked right round the
bay by the sands - 5 miles - to where the
River Siagne runs out near Napoléon
it was heavy sand-walking but I wa-
- ted to do it. There are only two places
now remaining within a few miles
of Cannes that I have not visited; one
of them is Antibes and I cannot get
there and back (it is 8 miles off) between
any two meals and the trains do not
suit as to hours. I have great dislike
to going into French cafés to get any-
- thing to eat or drink, it always seems
to me a most unsatisfactory proceeding.
Dawson and I went into a 'Café' at Fréjus
to get something to drink and there
were two men in it who seemed very
anxious to get into conversation with us,
one of them informed ^{us}, as soon as he found

we had walked from Cannes, that ~~the~~
the other man~~x~~ was writing about Fréjus
and was a "very learned man", this the
other overh^{ad} and went out, I fancied
in disgust at his friends officiousness;
no such thing; in ten minutes he came
back with a lot of documents and tes-
timonials from the Ecole Polytechnique,
the Horticultural Society at Nice and
from many schools and Societies, all
for our inspection. It struck me as
being a remarkable instance of French
vanity. The first man seemed delighted
at getting the chance of trotting out
his friend and wanted us to come over
again and said either of them would be
most happy to show us the antiquities
of Fréjus. I most sincerely hope I may
never come across either of them again.
Dawson Green and John Travers went to
Antibes by rail yesterday and wanted me
to go with them, but I don't admire
J.T. and so keep as clear of him as I
can. William Travers, the eldest, is said
to be nicest of the family, he is in 14th Hussars.

22^d Please forward enclosed. Miss Cop-
land, I find comes from 7 Longford Terrace.
is anything known of the people of that
name living there? If you see anything
as to Places in Alford's Riveria that you
think would interest me, please mention
them. I hear they are going to build a
large new hotel just close to this house
and hope to have it ready for next season.
It is amusing to watch all the women
in the market place here with their dis-
-tuffs, it looks such a mysterious process.
When is Charley E. expected back in town.
Yesterday there were a few heavy clouds
floating about and the hills looked all the
better for the shadows. To day it is again
cloudless and warmer than ever. I hear
the Dugmores (a large English family) are
all bathing now. The natives do not begin
till April. I have not yet decided as to
date of moving. Italian postage is 6? I think
see what it is, and tell me. Mentone is in France
Your affectionate son
Francis E. Prendergast.