

Cannes. Jan. 31. 1866.

My dear Mamma

You will be surprised to see that I am still here, but as Mr^s Greene is to leave for London on Monday next, I agreed to wait till that day, when Dawson and I are to start together on our road. Mr^s G. does not expect to be in London (at Mr Taggart's) till about Feb. 12.

Yours of 26th and the Times only arrived this morning, thus a post behind.

It seems to be thread that the women spin with the distaffs. Some people stay on here all summer and do not find the heat excessive on account of the sea breeze but the glare is said to be bad; the nights are always cool, so it cannot be as warm as the Lake of Geneva in summer, and people who know both places say so. My stopping here till Monday will not alter dates at Mentone, Genoa &c, as now I shall leave all stops at Vici &c, till returning. On Monday we had a great pic-nic party to the Esterels;

3 Carriages full of people; we started about twelve o'clock, lunched on the grass and then ladies and all went up a high rocky hill from which there were very fine views. The party consisted of a Mrs Wilberforce and her son (some not very distant relatives of the Wilberforce) Mr, Mrs and little Miss Kearney, a Miss Somerset, a Miss Gleig and her chaperone Miss Trench, a Mr Coward, a Mr Vansittart Neale, John Travers, Dawson and myself.

It was a pleasant day except for wind and dust, but in the mountains we escaped those disagreeables. I cannot tell you any more about these people as I had met none but the Kearneys before. Yesterday Charley came down to see me before lunch as he thought I was going off, and while we were sitting in the garden Elise joined us, then came in Dora, Alice and Mrs Wattleley, and John and Dawson soon after, so we had quite a crowd in the garden.

Feb. 1st I am finishing this to night to
post tomorrow. Please forward enclosed
to C. E. Jun^r wherever he may be and
also send on note to uncle Joe with
this. Madame Fato told me this eve-
ning (apropos of my leaving) that she
thought I had got fatter, especially
about the face, since coming here and
also that she remarked I used to cough
a little in the mornings, and now do
not do so. Two sets of people have
already been looking for rooms here.
Today I was to have gone with a large
party to the Esterels but it at last came
on drizzling ^{rain} and the expedition is to come
off tomorrow or Saturday if fine.

This ^{is} the first break in the weather for
some weeks, but here one is always
inclined to grumble at anything but
real fine weather. Just now I can hear
the sea breaking heavily on the shore, but

we have had no wind here to day or yesterday.
If I had left as I intended your last
letter would not have arrived in time.
M^{rs} Greene intends stopping at (sleeping,
at Marseilles, Lyons and Paris; it is
a long journey for her to make by herself
and ~~the~~ more the stops, the greater the
trouble. Dawson is going home when
our tour comes to an end whenever
that may be. He is not intending
to come back here. I have got the
"Practical Guide to Italy"; there is a simi-
-lar one for Switzerland; they are small
& cheaper than Murray and quite different
in style. It might amuse male Frank
to take a look at one of these "Practical
Guides", they are utterly unlike anything
else and in their way are good.

Your affectionate son.

Francis E. Prendergast.