

Pisa. Feb. 19. 1866. 10.30 a.m.

My dear Mamma,

Yesterday morning I went to the English church and found a large congregation, evidently of residents and not mere passers through; I suppose there might have been about 50. In the afternoon we went by rail to Leghorn (30 minutes) and came back to dinner here. Leghorn is a large busy city with some fine streets, but not attractive looking. I saw a good many English walking about there. Pisa on the whole seems a dull, humdrum place and without some settled occupation I should not like to spend much time here. It is wet and cold this morning and we are waiting for the one o'clock train to go to Florence. All the paper that I am writing on has been already folded to fit in my case and is very tiresome to write on. The great comfort in Italian Rly. travelling is that they do not leave one up in the waiting rooms, but allow free access to the platforms and they always put the price on the tickets. At one place I saw a man climbing

Telegraph posts with long iron hooks fastened to each ~~metal~~ foot; he seemed to go up and down quite easily. Everything that could be made of it, is white marble in this house, it does for the stairs particularly well.
Hotel d'Europe Florence. Feb. 20.

Yesterday at noon we left Pisa and came up here by rail (3 hours), and I then got your letter enclosing Charley's and uncle Joes enclosing W.P.P.s. Charley informs me that Ormsby has got a berth on the Indian Geological Survey and has sailed.

Florence seems to be a fine large gay city with all the signs of life and vigour belonging to a rising capital. The streets are rather narrow, flagged all over, but ^{few} no trottoirs, the carriages drive recklessly and in every paper one reads accounts of people being run over. The Duomo is a splendid pile of chequered marble but the external effect is spoiled by the magpie appearance produced by the parti-co.

coloured marbles. To day we visited
the Pitti Palace with its splendid
gallery of pictures, the floors nicely
inlaid with stone and cement and
some of the tables and marble mosaics
are very curious - but I see nothing to
come up to the Dresden Gallery for
comfort, light, arrangement, and (to
my eyes) pictures. We also had a
long hunt for the British Embassy,
Legation or whatever it is called, Daw-
son to get a passport and I to get
mine viséd for Rome, they have also
yet to be viséd by the Spanish Legation;
the Pope having no representative in
Florence the Spaniards do his visé-ing.
We think of leaving on Friday morning
and shall be 4 or 5 days on the road;
I do not expect to leave Rome before
March 4th and have no fixed plans
after that; one idea of mine is to
come back here and spend a week or
a fortnight; as I see there are good
pensions at 7 francs a day and it might

be pleasant to spend a little time in this,
the new Italian Capital. D. G. inten-
going on to Naples and thence via
long (3 weeks at least) sea to London
and hopes the vessel will stop at Messina
Palermo and Gibraltar en route.

On the whole I think you might address
to me Poste Restante Florence for
March 6th and later unless further ad-
vised. I should like to do something
if possible towards laying in some
slight knowledge of Italian, which does
not seem to be a difficult language,
in its elements at all events; I can
now ask my way in the streets and under-
stand the answer, make out the news-
papers without much trouble, and that
little might be further improved.

This is a good hotel and much to be
recommended. Table d'hôte excellent.
There is a reading room too with Fauchinitz
novels Galigiani and Italian papers.

Your affectionate son

Francis E. Prendergast.