

Hotel d'Europe Florence

Feb. 20. 1866.

My dear uncle Joe,

Yesterday I received yours of 11th enclosing
W. P. Ps of more ancient date.

This morning I called on Messrs Plow-
den and French, and found the latter
who was very kind and is going to give
me a letter to Mr Plowden who has
retired and now lives at Rome.

Mr Otley (Charles) is an invalid and
paralysed. If I have time I shall go
and call on him. J. N. Maxwell's address
was not so easy to discover; French sent
me to another English banker who could
not give me the address, so I tried at
Goodbans (English Bookseller and
factotum) after having tried at the
Jockey Club Reading Rooms previously.
Mr Nesbitt happened most opportunely
to be in the shop so I introduced myself
and she kindly took my card to give Mr
N. and asked me to call tomorrow morning
which I shall do and in due time let you hear.

French asked for uncle Jeffry's address
I gave him it as Couls Down Bath.

In the afternoon I went to the English
Cemetery (Protestant, I should say) and
found a tomb with following inscription

Sacred to the Memory of
Major Alexander Tompkins 47th Regt.
Youngest Son of the late Burgoyne Tompkins M.D.
Physician at the Tower of London
Departed this life on the
24 Nov. 1852 aged years.

The age is not given. the tombstone a flat
horizontal marble slab, enclosed by 4 small
stone pillars and 4 iron rails.

The Cemetery is well placed, well kept
and well filled; it is nice large and
has a splendid view. The Custode can
talk nothing but Italian; however he soon
found me the tomb. Some celebrities
are buried there; amongst others Elizabeth
Barrett Browning and Theodore Parker, the
well known Transatlantic Theolog.
I have seldom seen a better kept or nicer
cemetery at home or abroad.

I did not penetrate to the Cemetery at
Genoa. I like the looks of Florence very
much. The women look and dress curiously
English like. They ^{men} ape English styles
and make guys of themselves in tall hats
English boating coats with large buttons
tight kid gloves and ditto trousers, al-
-together a most incongruous outfit.
However they are better than Frenchmen
any day. French tells me that every-
-thing has risen enormously in price
house rent and food particularly.

Love to uncle Jeffry and all.

He does not think that there is much doing
in the Italian Railway World for want of
Govt. Guarantees; however he is an "outsider"
and as such probably knows little of these
matters. I know there is much in progress
at the moment in the country. I see
an English Engineer named Alenethy
~~has~~ ^{is} on a line between Savona and Turin
and I am pretty sure I saw a young English
Engineer at Pisa Ry. Station.

Your affectionate nephew
Francis E. Prendergast