

Florence. March 14.th

In Saturday Dawson was to have left Rome for Naples but he did not get off till Sunday; Saturday was wet and we saw little except the pictures in the Capitol - nothing of any note. Sunday morning D.G. left and soon after Col. Groves came and introduced himself to me; we had been in the hotel together all the time and he only found who Dawson was on Saturday evening. I sat for some time with him and Mrs on Sunday evening. They are to be in Florence this week, so I shall see them again.

On Monday morning I left by rail at 5. a.m. for Civita Vecchia, thence took diligence (8 hours) to Nurziatella, thence rail to Leghorn arriving there at 8 p.m. It was the Civita Vecchia and Nurziatella diligence that was robbed lately and we were pointed out the spot, quite close to a Sardinian Guard House, but still within Papal territory. I slept at Leghorn and came up here yesterday morning by rail, arriving here at 11.30.

First I went to the P.O. and got your two letters, ^{of 6th and 2^d} one enclosing aunt F's, also the Bath Co.

Then it being wet I strolled into one of the picture galleries for a while and then went to call on Maxwell but only found Mrs M. at home. Then I went to the Railway Station, got my luggage and came here - Casa Schneiderf; Pension formerly kept by Mrs Molini Clark, now by her daughter and her Italian husband. It is the one most recommended by Murray and also by Mrs Maxwell. Terms 8 francs a day. Breakfast at 9. lunch from 1 till 3 dinner at six, tea at eight. There are about 20 people in the house, Charles Weld among the number - at least I was told so after breakfast to day and I shall soon find him out. Also a Mr and Mrs Dick who know Harris P. DeC^o. Also a young American (Kentucky I think) who seems pleasant. The others I have not yet "found out." There is a large well furnished drawing room which seems much used and very comfortable; it looks out "lung' Arno" i.e. is on the Quay beside the river which now instead of being the "Silver

"Arno" is a muddy, flooded river. It rained all yesterday and seems inclined to do the same to day and is as cold and raw as it ever is anywhere. After afternoon church on Sunday last I went to St Peters and came in for vespers there with very fine music, there were over 100 priests in their robes, not performing, but as the congregation. St Peters and the Coliseum are the two grand points in Rome to my mind. The Rome and Civita Vecchia rail has 2nd class carriages on it that would disgrace an English Line; I never saw such bad 2nd class abroad. The diligences were very good, two horses as wheelers and three abreast for leaders. I was in the Calviolet or Imperiale on the top and had ^{for} my companions a young Neapolitan who could speak French and an amusing, conceited Venetian Courier who was travelling with Americans. He spoke English pretty well and spun a long yarn about how the Austrians had pressed him into their army in 1859.

address for the publisher P. R. Florence

on how he had deserted and escaped in a boat across the Po under fire from the Austrian sentries. When we crossed the Papal frontier he was pointing out how the whole country was improved and how even the trees seemed to grow freer! Not quite without truth either. All say Rome will be "Italian" either this summer or next year - I hope so.

In Udine the walls were printed everywhere with "Viva Garibaldi, Roma o morte". In Pisa it was "Italiani, liberiamo Venezia, sacchiamo lo straniero". The last I quote from memory, so perhaps the sacchiamo is not right as to spelling. Similar notices are up in many places. I wonder if the French ^{& Germans} will ever be content to learn from the English and Italians and allow passengers free access to the Railway platforms. Perhaps they are too great children to be allowed such freedom and require perpetual looking after. It is so cold that I saw them putting feet-warmers into the 1st class carriages yesterday.

your affect. son Francis E. Prendergast