

Casa Schneiderf. Florence. March 19. 66

My dear Mamma

On Friday I posted a letter to J. L. P. enclosing one for aunt Flora. On the same day M^{re}. Barbensi kindly got me a ticket for the Chamber of Deputies and I went there for about half an hour; there seemed to be much interest regarding the proceedings both amongst the Deputies and the public in the gallery. Next day was wet and I did nothing more than a visit to the Uffizi Gallery, where I came across Col. Grove and party. Yesterday was the only tolerably fine day we have had and after church I went to the Cascine Gardens, a long stretch of park and pleasure grounds along the Arno and commanding fine views of the Apennines.

I also walked up to the Kings Villa at the other side of the town, the Avenue leading to it seems to be the favourite Sunday walk of the lower orders in Florence, there is a double row of fine evergreen oaks on each side of it, but they always look gloomy.

20th Yesterday I went with Charles Weld
to the Garibaldi-Mazzini meeting in
the Pagliano Theatre; it was very crow-
ded and great enthusiasm prevailed
but the people seemed very orderly.
Some of the speakers spoke very well
as far as I could judge. Uncle
Frank will tell you what it was all
about. Yesterday it was again wet al-
most the whole day. At the P.R.
I found your letter of 13th enclosing one
from Miss von S. It was not I that
put ~~on~~ the stamps so curiously on one
of my letters. All the hills about here
have been snow-clad since I came, but
these last two days it has been much
warmer; the weather is still broken
and wet. The drawing-room where
I am writing this is a very fine room
thirty feet square and most comfortable,
some of the people have private sitting-
rooms but even they use this room a
great deal. In the evening after tea
two tables of whist are got up and then

I sit down to do some Italian. C.R.W. is out a great deal but when he is here in the evenings he generally writes after tea. The people in the streets here are a very mixed lot; the lower orders look heavy, fat and good-humoured; they give me the idea of the "bos piger"; then come the smart dandies, generally small light built young men who ape English dress to a most amusing extent, finally, there are the ladies who are the best-looking and nicest dressed of any I have seen abroad. Then there is a very large English and American population who having nothing to do are of course very much out of doors. In the Reading Rooms there are ~~or~~ six London daily papers, four weeklies and nearly as many American papers. They have all the Italian and French papers I ever saw or heard of but no German ones that I can see.

I like Florence better than Rome to stay in; the atmosphere of perpetual sight-seeing and talking about ^{it} is very tiresome.

at Rome. At the table d'hôte there
the only and constant subject was "what
" have you seen to day and what are you
" going to see tomorrow?" Then here one
gassin and out of the galleries as free
as air, while at Rome the custodes are
for ever at the doors and are always
expecting something. The number of
English cards on the Continent now is
very distressing; here and at Rome the
galleries are filled with those fearful
2nd class English; I only know of one
more objectionable class, namely the French
of the same position and there is a very
considerable sprinkling of them here.

The English post comes in late at night
and goes out at 8.30 a.m. Your last
letter has the Dublin stamp "March 13"
Firenze 17th. There is a great flood
in the river this morning, probably from
melting snow. Please forward enclosed.
I have heard nothing from Fogerty & Co
this long time. I see Forde & Fleming are the
electric engineers for Reuters new German tele-
graph.