

Florence . March 22. 1866.

My dear Mamma

Today I received yours of 17th with many
slips enclosed. Yesterday I had a long
and amusing letter from Dora. She says
C.M.P. is much better and they have had
fine weather ever since I left. They
intend leaving Cannes early in April
for Nice, Mentone, San Remo and Genoa
to return to England early in May;
how, she does not say. Elsie is much
the same, John Travers very much better.
Only one new arrival at the Villa
Marie-Thérèse; a Mrs Cox, cousin
of Mrs Niven who was there with me.
Alice, she says, is bursting her dresses,
she has got so fat? I hear (via Mrs
Dick, from the Merricks) that Harris is
much cheered at the prospects of C's
return. Arthur has joined some very
swell singing club, the "Moray Minstrel"
and they were invited to the Duke of
Sutherland to sing before the P. & P.ess
of Wales. Dora says the dust at Cannes
is troublesome, and they have had some mistral

Still continued rain; seldom more than an hour or two of any day available for going out, but between the comfortable drawing room here, the reading-room and the galleries, the day passes quickly. I have only ~~twice~~ thrice been outside the walls since I came. Yesterday I called on Col. Grove at his hotel and saw him and party. Maxwell I see constantly in the reading room. The Arno is very full, two arches of the bridge opposite this were said to have nearly "choked" the night before last. C. R. W. ^(on Florence) sends a weekly letter to the Athenaeum, and to do him justice, it is about the most readable thing in the paper; what a wretched prosy concern it has got to be! In this house there are two white Persian cats, the father and mother of two nice little white kittens; the whole four constantly lie in a basket near my door. I never remember seeing any ~~few~~ entirely white cats before. These ones do not seem intelligent animals. For some years there has been an English church at

the other side of the town, but a few ^{sun-}
-days ago a new one was opened close to
this in a room which had been a library;
it is nicely fitted up; the seats are well
padded armchairs, 100 in number, besides
some cushioned alcoves in the wall;
it is not very church-like, but is very
comfortable. It was nearly full morn-
-ning and evening on Sunday last.

23.^a Yesterday I dined with Maxwell,
a Dr Duffy was there and in the evening
a Miss Gough. M^{rs} Maxwell was a
Miss Fullarton of Derry or Antrim Co.
To day was the first really fine day we
have had and I got some walks in the
suburbs which are very pretty. C.R.W.
left to day for London, and we have got
four new comers, two young Russian
ladies, who speak French; one of them
is very nice looking; the other pair are
a gentleman and his wife, English I
think. To day at the P.R. I found a
letter from Lwissey dated Feb. 11; it had
been forwarded from Cannes. From what
he says and from what I see in the papers

I think J. To Bridgworth Line must have passed. Livesey is looking for work but has not got any yet. Notcutt ditto. It is wonderful how soon the roads about here dry up, to day they were almost all quite dry. Yesterday I took a turn into the Duomo and heard a monk preaching very clearly and forcibly; I can just catch a little of what is said by Italians in regular speaking. I don't think I ever told you that when I was coming up from Rome they weighed my luggage at one place and called it 25 kilos, at another they made it 22 kilos, just half a stone difference! So much for their machines. They are constantly dredging for sand in the Arno with long Scoop-shovels from boats; they seem to have very little sand for mortar in the neighbourhood. At night the long line of lamps on each side of the Arno looks very well as there is a slight curve in the river.

Your affectionate son
Francis E. Prendergast