

Caunes.

April 21. 1866.

My dear Mamma

Yours of 14th arrived on the 18th. In this I enclose a note of Elsie's which may amuse you as there is Caunes news in it. You can burn it. I should like my letters brought over to Oxford. Also I want 50 or 100 more visiting cards - you have my plate - and three of my "carte de visites" from Lauder. Also two pieces of white curd soap. John Travers left on Wednesday, so when I go Elsie will have nothing here to represent a relative; I think it is a great shame of the Travers not to send out a brother or a sister to her at once, when two of her sisters and one brother have nothing to engage them. Yesterday I went to look for Mr Richardson at the Hotel de Provence but found he had gone to Nice some time ago. It is a lovely vally up near that hotel, which is at the other side of Caunes and is about two miles from this; now the corn is a

lovely green, nearly ripe and the polished green of the leaves on the fig trees mingle with the gray green olives in a most picturesque manner. It was very hot and a magnificent swallow tailed butterfly was sailing grandly about the place. They fly almost like birds. Lots of nightingales are said to be about here now, but I have not heard them. The air is quite sweet and perfumed everywhere about here, now, and they are gathering in the orange blossoms to make scent of. I saw Lord Brougham tottering along the road the other day; he is very feeble but will accept no assistance. When John Travers was packing up I learned a wrinkle from him, namely before packing up coats or trousers (and particularly dress ones) turn them inside out; they thus escape all dirt and dust in the portmanteau and he says, come out without a crease.

I see that last week or the beginning
of this, ~~that~~ there was so bad a slip
on the Corniche road near Savona
that the Diligences could not pass
and had to exchange passengers.
Mr Dick wrote to me from Florence
but he ~~say~~ did not give much news.
You have never yet mentioned any
date for your going to Oxford. I
hope you will bring a few books this
time to make the room look comfortable
and take away a little of the lodging-
house look. Last time Papa ~~& regretted~~
not having brought Pope and a volume
or two of Plutarch, so I dare say he
will do it this time. I brought out
many more books than I wanted, still
they furnish a room even if they do
nothing else. It is wonderful weather
here and after dinner at seven o'clock
it is so dry and warm that we go out
into the garden for a while,

I expect to reach Paris about Friday or Saturday next; possibly W. P. P. might be there about that time? Probably also C. M. P. & Co; they talked of going to Hotel Chatham. I shall probably be at H. des Etrangers Rue Vivienne.

Does Papa remember Bradley's (13 Bury St, charges? Can a bedroom be had there for 10/6 a week or less? I have some idea of going temporarily at first till I see what is going to become of me. It is tiresome to think of having to go through the same worry of looking for a berth as last year, but this is the best season to get permanent (versus Parliamentary) work. ~~I have some idea of going to the States to see what is going to become of me.~~

~~Very likely there will be a letter from you this evening but this has to be posted in the forenoon. I think of moving on Tuesday.~~

Your affectionate son
Francis E. Prendergast.