

Hotel St James.

211 Rue St Honoré.

Paris.

May 1st 1866

My dear uncle Joe

I duly received your note of 22^d and letter of 26th April. Impressed in the important matter of hotels - I do not consider this up to the mark; the table d'hôte is poor and wine not included, they charge ~~1~~ a franc for 1/2 a bottle of very inferior ordinaire. In fair weather this would not matter as one could dine elsewhere but in present cold, wet weather it would not do.

Well the coffee room attendance is very bad and each morning I have had to wait 20 minutes at least for a cup of coffee - this at 9 a. m.

Then at nine this morning the head waiter (a German) and another were coolly taking their breakfast at a side table - this I consider unpardonable in well conducted house in the public salle à manger.

Next the rooms are often not made till
near dinner time and there is perpetual
confusion about the bedroom keys and
candles - really atrocious ill manage-
-ment. Yet people call this a good
hotel! This house used to be
the Hotel de Lille at d'Albion, kept
by M. Lebas and under him obtained
a good name; he left it and took
away its name to the new hotel de
Lille et d'Albion No 223 Rue St
Honore' which I hear is the one to
go to and that this is every day sinking.
Externally the other looks very well
and is highly spoken of. Let uncle
Willy know this and any others whom
it may concern. C. M. P. and Co
are at Hotel Chatham (new) Rue
Neuve St. Augustin just off the
Boulevard des Capucines. It is
small, clean, quiet and comfortable
and they are well satisfied with it.

So much for hotels. Between the bad weather and going about with Dora and Alice I have not seen much, however having once before "done" Paris with a Coalet de Place pretty thoroughly in a day I don't consider sight seeing here a duty. Yesterday afternoon we went to show Alice Napoleons tomb but were too late to get in, then we went to Notre Dame and while there it came on to rain heavily and not a cab was to be had for love or money to come back and we all got pretty well wet. In my three visits to Paris - once in July, once in October and now in May-April it always has been both wet and cold! All hotels are said to be full, English and American faces are everywhere in the streets. At Hotel Chatham they could not give C. M. P. a room either on

ground floor or in entresol and as he would not take a room high up they made the small public salon into a bedroom for him! He talked of starting for London tomorrow, to go through via B^ologne and Folkestone if the weather was fine, but now at 11.10 a.m. it is raining hard and does not seem inclined to stop, so very likely he will not start tomorrow.

This morning at P.R. I found two letters from Tower Terrace of 28th and 29th ult.

I cannot recommend any four or even three language pocket dictionaries, such small polyglot ones are generally merely rubbish and a French one is rather more likely to be rubbish than an English or German one. I carry three small ones in preference - French German & Italian and one is not likely to want more than one language at a time. Your affectionate nephew
Francis B. Prendergast.