

Dresden

October 4<sup>th</sup> 1859

My dear Papa,

Last night I was at uncle Jeffys to meet Dora and Alice P. and Mr Nuthank who has been here since Saturday. To day I was at the train to see them off and Mr Nuthank desired particularly to be remembered to you. Dora had got round again wonderfully, <sup>and</sup> though Dr Seiler advised her to wait a day or two she went off this afternoon at 2.45. p.m. I should think that uncle Willie must be very, very, busy if he cannot manage to make a run up here, though I suppose it is 30 or 36 hours distant at least.

I wonder if his German will be of much use to him there?

I have not done anything about either Italian or Geology yet. Adolf tells me that there are only lectures once a week in the Polytechnic and he does not think that they could be of any use



for any period under six months.

ergo. Private lessons are the only thing.

Uncle Jeffry seems rather to advise against Italian as he thinks it would be scattering my energies and that more important things could be found. This may be true and I

dare say he is right, still it seems to me that the more languages I can get into my brain the better for me. You may think over these things and tell me what you think about them, and in the mean time I shall take the liberty of looking out for a mathematical master -

i.e. only for figure mathematics algebra and arithmetic. I am afraid of forgetting them if I do not do something and I should only be groping in the dark without a master. I confess I have a hankering after Italian and indeed languages generally



and whatever talent I may have for them I have none for mathematics.

I hope you will give me an answer to this as soon as possible.

The French is going on flourishingly under Ayer's ~~paper~~ superintendence.

He is making me write letters (composed out of my head) and descriptions of scenery &c. ~~and~~ I am reading Voltaire's Charles XII with him and endeavour to get as much conversation as I can with him.

I have seldom met a person who I liked so well, and I have seen a good deal of him.

The weather here is most lovely but to me it is not pleasant - too dry - winter was the time I liked best here and I am looking out for its return.

There is nothing that I shall be gladder to get to again than the sea air. I used to wish in summer



that I could have got down to  
the Mediterranean even if it was  
only for a day.

I like the idea of spending a few  
days in Holland on my way  
back very much and should  
like to hear some more about  
uncle Willie's business.

I am sorry to hear that the  
~~Leight~~ ~~Wood~~ Woodside people  
will have to turn out, but  
I dare say they will find some-  
-thing quite as good elsewhere.

Francis E. Prendergast.