

Dresden. October 7th

1859

My dear Papa

I met uncle Jeffry in the Grosse
Garten to day and had some con-
-versation with him regarding a
mathematical master &c.

Mr Wuthank put me the question the
other day as to what profession I
intended following, and as I knew
~~that~~ that people like him do not
ask idle questions it set me thinking,
and I had some talk on the subject
with uncle Jeffry to day, and he mentioned
that you seemed to think the en-
-gineering line would be suitable for
me; this I had no idea of before,
and was very glad to hear, as my
own inclinations run that way.

I had somehow always had an
idea that you wished me to follow
the law, which used to make me
often feel uncomfortable as I did
not like to oppose your wishes,
though my own inclinations were very

much against it. You must remember that I am within a few days of 18, and it seems to me to be time that something should be settled on this point, as it will enable me to apply myself energetically to some particular line of study, for, though I pursue my work now as a matter of course, still it would help me on wonderfully if I had some definite object in view; and as that object I should be inclined to choose the Engineer's Diploma of T. E. D.

I believe there is a first rate engineering school in the college, and that after the college course it is required that one should spend a couple of years in an engineers office. More than that I do not know, but you can easily get information ^{on} ~~about~~ the subject. Supposing that I entered college next year and

that everything went on as usual, I should
be turned out as an engineer ready
for work in 6 years, i.e. at the age
of 24. Later than 25 would, I
think, hardly do to begin.

You will most probably hear from
uncle Jeffry on this subject; he is
you know all for mathematics, and
says he considers engineering the best
profession for young men now-a-days.
However I shall expect to hear
from you in due time on this sub-
ject and in the mean time will get
a mathematical master.

Oct. 8. I shall post this tomorrow
~~morning~~ and I dine at Carola
Strasse in the evening. I think it
would be advisable for me to return
on the 1st of January; for though
my life here has been, and is a very
pleasant one, ^{yet.} it always seems to
me to be an idle life, particularly

regarding the Latin; working at-
this through German is a fearful
and discouraging work for it seems
to me that the Latin lesson is
certainly more than half a German
lesson - accordingly the lesson is
only half Latin. French being
learned through French, the case
is altered there; and another
loss is having so many different
masters - It seems to me that
more is accomplished by one master
in two hours taking everything
together, than in 4 hours with
4 masters. However the time
cannot be called wasted here
as I ^{am} adding to my French and
German daily at all events.

Francis E. Undergast.