

Dresden.

October 13. 1859.

My dear Papa,

This morning I had my first mathematical lesson, and my lessons now stand as follows, French, Latin, German and mathematics, each three times a week, each lesson lasting, as is always the case here, an hour. This gives two hours per day and will ~~of~~ keep me busy enough preparing for them. I was out at Lockwitz the day before yesterday and saw the whole of the Prussians who are staying there at present i.e. Mr & Mrs and the two daughters.

I have been hunting for Mr Hale (the clergyman) three times since I returned, to settle about getting a seat in the church, but each time unsuccessfully however I am going to take another look for him to day.

Last night we celebrated the birthday of one of the Beckendorfs relations - the young lady who is engaged - and had some, or rather a good deal of fun.

Unluckily there was no dancing as there is no piano in the house and we did not think of getting a fiddler till it was too late.

14th. Yesterday evening I received your letter of Monday, I had hardly expected one so soon, but I was none the less glad to get it. You will have heard by this time that, by Mrs Jeffry's advice, I am not going to take up the Italian. I am not ^{or, punning} thinking of renewing either my gymnastics lessons, for I could not take a lesson before breakfast in winter, and it would take two whole hours from the day; and just at present I have no inclination for anything but working and studying maps.

I believe I am pretty well up in Euclid, thanks to Mrs Ensell's method of teaching, but it is in algebra that I am deficient, which is the result of my not having been at

it early enough, and thus want familiarity with it. I am afraid skating is another thing which I have not learned ^{early} enough, for last winter I took a good deal of pains with it, and yet made little or nothing of it; I am too tall to learn it properly now, but there is nothing like trying. Beyond the mere fact that uncle Willie has left England I know nothing more, either regarding business or anything else. I am certainly lucky in having Oger as a master but I have also been very lucky ~~not~~ in another of my masters, viz., in Kauerck, my German master, who I like very much, but do not speak much about as there is nothing very particular about him either in manners or appearance. Do you remember a little blue venetian double-breasted waistcoat, which I got ages ago?

It is still to the fore and looks almost as good as new! I have quite forgotten when I got it. I had a long walk with uncle Jefferys yesterday and also the day before. He is very full of the advantages of an engineer, and is always recurring to the subject. He told me he~~x~~ had written to you on the subject.

I have no time for reading English now, and I find that my spelling is suffering from it, but I suppose that will return when I get back.

The winter is slowly but steadily approaching; hitherto we have not even had a night frost.

Francis E. Prendergast.