

Dresden. October 17. 1859.

My dear Mamma

I received aunt Mamma's and Floris's letter this evening enclosing yours,

I am afraid I shall not be able to answer either for some time to come. I got a letter from Mfelt the other day but there was no great news in it. I suppose my return may now be considered as fixed for the 25th January that being the pay day here as I returned on the 24. Sept. That must be the absolute limit of my stay here, and even then I suppose that with visits on the way &c, I shall hardly be in Dublin before the middle of February.

It is very pleasant ~~to~~ to hear of the Rockmullen improvements, it really seems as if some traces of civilization were beginning to penetrate to those remote regions. Have you ever got a personal description of Miss Holbrook.

I had not forgotten the date of my birth-
-day when writing but 3 weeks = 21 days
seem to me to be entitled to the
name of a few days.

Indeed the time goes over very rapidly
here, which ^{is} partly consequent on
the quantity of time spent at meals.

We shall now have three would be
engineers in this house, as both
Adolf and Stockton are studying
engineering. I have not suc-
-ceeded in finding Mr Dale
at home yet but I shall make
another trial ~~at~~ soon again.

Dr Seiler was at Carol's ~~place~~
yesterday evening but that was
the only novelty there.

I think it was very clever of
Tom to jump in that way at the
window, nor do I exactly understand
how he managed to spring.

We have been playing casino all the evening; the amount of chance and skill united in it, seems to give great satisfaction to the people here.

There is some Circus coming here soon and they have got a large wooden affair in course of erection on the Bürgers Platz.

There will be great doings here on the Schiller anniversary (11 November) ~~the~~ grand theatre performances, torch procession in which the Polytechnic School will take part &c.

It is getting very late so I must finish.

Francis E. Vandergast

To be posted Tuesday 18th

Dresden.

Oct 17. 1859

My dear Papa

Yours of the 16th arrived this evening.

I am very glad to hear that you approve of the Engineering line, and I shall now be anxious to hear some more about the most approved method to be followed in T.E.D. As to the returning on the first of January or February it is quite alike to me (25th is at present pay day here) except as regards college, for I am not and cannot make much progress at the classics here but there certainly are great opportunities here for modern languages and the ~~math~~ mathematics are at least ~~not~~ kept in practice. The Hague is just 25½ hours from Dresden, i.e. leaving Dresden at 2.45 p.m. one day you arrive at the Hague next day at 4.15 p.m. the actual time occupied in travelling is not over 23 hours but there is some time lost at Rotterdam &c. The fare 2nd class is about £ 2:10, by express train somewhat dearer. Amsterdam is only two hours by rail

from the Hague.

Our fun and noise is all carried on in German, but I would not undertake to say that it is very classical German. Last week there was, so much English spoken that there has been a box established into which a pfennige (half a farthing) must be paid for every English word spoken during a certain time; the extent of my contributions to it have only been one single pfennige up to this time. Stockton is a tall, thin, black haired New Jersey man, and looks a ~~strong~~ thorough Jonathans; he has never been away from his father and mother until now, and would accompany them to Leipzig were it not that he is at the Polytechnic here; he is only seventeen and internally very merry and loquacious; but he is one of the best Americans that I have yet seen, for generally speaking they are as thorough young scamps as well can be.

He is a great walker and ^{it} keeps me busy
to keep up with him; we went out
together (the whole party of youngsters) to
the Goldene Höhe the other day; ~~and~~ it
is what the Germans call $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours,
and we ~~two~~ did it in 58 minutes!
I don't think I ever went so fast before,
but then we ran a good deal of the
way. Adolf and Arthur were at least
7 minutes behind us. I like the
Cortmans very much, but poor Mrs Cortman
is suffering greatly from homesickness and
is often rather melancholy. Her daughter
who is at a boarding school here is a
remarkably nice little girl of 15; she
is here on Sundays and fête days.

Regarding visiting Holland, the Hague
and Amsterdam, it would be on my
way (nearly) going home, but if you
thought it advisable I could run down
at Christmas and spend 6 or 7 days there
for £9 or £10. Less than that it could

not be, as the rail there and back
2nd class would be £ 5. alone.

The weather still remains the same,
no frost, but a little rain every
now and again.

I read the account of the Great Eastern
voyage ~~from~~ to Holyhead in the Times
and Illustrated; to me it seems
to have been quite successful,
but the Times and uncle Jeffry - probably
uncle Frank too - grumble at it.

I always read up the Illustrated and
Thursday and Friday's Times's at Carola
Strasse on Sundays, as well as Punch,
so I manage to know something
of what is going on at home.

Are there any rifle-clubs or Volunteer
Corps in Ireland?

Francis E. Vredergast.