

Dresden

October 21st
1859.

My dear Papa,

I suppose that by the time you get this you will have heard of uncle Goes intended visit to Dresden. Perhaps it might be a good opportunity for me to run down to the Hague when he is going back, as I suppose he will pass that way - I mean if there is any probability of uncle Willies leaving it before the 1st February. There will probably be further particulars to day or tomorrow, but in his letter he said he was going to apply for leave on the 23^d Oct. so that he will probably be here next week. I have now got into regular work with Dr Klein, my mathematical master; I find I have forgotten very little (I am confining myself now to algebra) but of course it had grown a little rusty for want of practice during the last 10 months. I am very lucky in my

masters, Ayer and Scheibe (Latin) are both well educated people, and as well bred as people of their class usually are; Klawns and Klein are also good honest Germans without any pretensions, but both up to their work. However I am convinced that there is nothing like having one master for everything, two or three hours a day; the time is spent to far better purpose and he is able to balance the lessons properly, as he knows exactly how far one is in each subject, which is a great point. Klawns and Ayer now make ^{me} write composition, i.e. out of my head - substance, idea and all, and Ayer sometimes - often indeed, makes me write from dictation.

From having learned French from such an early age I feel comparatively at home in it in reading, writing on

distressing, while the German always seems strange to me when reading or writing it. This gives me an opportunity of judging as to the learning a language - French I learned entirely theoretically, i.e. by reading and grammar, German almost entirely practically i.e. by speaking and hearing. Neither method will accomplish both ends. Should I take up the study of any other language now or later, it must be Spanish, with reference to my profession in which it might prove ^{to be} a great advantage.

You have no idea how much the Americans are doing towards the spreading of the English language - they generally know a tolerable amount of languages but always insist on other people's speaking English. Uncle Jeffry and most people English people who I have met dislike and abuse the Americans, but I have seen and known so many who were well bred and agreeable, that I have quite a fancy

for them. It is very unfair abusing them
for not conforming with the English
customs, for they have theirs against ~~the~~
which we offend just as much, and
how many of the English conform with
the customs of the country they may
happen to be in? Very few indeed.
Yours of the 18th came this evening.

I must now give all my spare time
to mathematics, and only work at classics
as much as may be necessary for the college
course. It always seems to me that
too much of my time has been given up
to classics and too little to mathematics.

I wish you would make inquiries about
the engineering school and lectures in the
College, for I should like to begin as
soon as possible after entering - one never
can begin at a new subject too soon.
Of Trigonometry I know nothing as yet,
and that is an important ~~own~~ branch
both in engineering and the college course.

I suppose I may consider my return as fixed
for 25.th January?

Francis E. Brewster.