

Dresden.

October 26th
1859.

My dear Mamma,

This evening I got a letter from uncle Frank enclosing sundry slips of newspapers &c. A party of us went out to see the remains of the Link'sche Brad on Saturday and found that the damage was much less than had been expected, as the walls have remained untouched though everything else was swept away. This evening Arthur was electrifying us all - sending shocks through half a dozen at a time, some one gave him an old machine and he is perpetually making experiments with it. I do not expect that I shall have more envelopes than I want for they are articles which vanish at a wonderful rate. The weather has got cold but there has been no frost as yet, nor any signs of one; Adolf tells me that there has been one shower of sleet already, but I can hardly believe it.

The Japs Market was in full go to day and the crowd was tremendous, particularly towards evening when it was hardly possible to get about the town, but I did not see anything in the shape of a drunken man; the only way I can account for this is that there is no law against drunkenness here, so the idea never enters the peoples heads.

25. I am getting this ready to send off tomorrow morning though I dare say there will be one from you in the evening. I have heard nothing more of Uncle Joe but I hardly fancy that he will be here much before the 1st November.

I am in hopes that my birthday will pass over without the I's remembering it, for if they did, they would be having a party, giving me presents &c, &c, in the regular German style. A birthday, whether the person be old

or young, is always made a festival, and not to keep one would be something very fearful indeed. I saw the Boytons on Sunday for a few minutes before the church; they were very friendly and told me that they return to town this week, so that Adolf and I have arranged to pay them a visit next week. Young Boyton and Capt. Montgomery return at Christmas.

We had a great game of casino last night played by 8 people with two packs of cards but it was not so amusing as the game of four.

Vingt-un is the most amusing game for a large party and is one of those exciting games where one may lose or win to an enormous amount. We play for counters made to represent napoleons and $\frac{1}{4}$ naps, and in the course of ten minutes half the counters are often in the hands of one single person. Mr Stockton and

I are always the greatest winners and losers as we generally set half the amount ^{we} we may happen to have.

I can now easily understand how it is that the Gambling rooms at the Rhine watering places win so much, for the chances are about 9 to 1 for the bank.

I have now got a seat right in the middle of the church which Mr Dale recommended to me as a good position for hearing - and seeing! I think he and the Boytons are the only English I know here; all the people of last winter have disappeared.

Francis E. Bredergast.