

Dresden

Oct 26th
1859.

My dear Papa

Your letter of the 18th arrived on Saturday evening, so that I had not had time to ~~do~~ do anything about the Cicero, nor do I think it would be worth beginning it here. Yesterday evening I had some talk with uncle Jeffrey concerning the date of my return, and we both came to the conclusion that it would be advisable for me to leave this before Jan 1st - say a day or two after Christmas. The reasons are as follows: 1st there will be a general holiday taken by everyone, masters included, from the 24th Dec till 2^d or 3^d Jan. which is a great loss of time, 2^d if I remain till 1st Febr both this time and the time (say 10 days) ~~is~~ occupied in travelling and visiting will also be lost for study, 3^d I shall be able to see them all together at Pondwell - 5 aunts and the Ensors - and might easily do this, as well as pay Holland a visit and be in Dublin by the 10th Jan. If I stop till 1st Feb, the time at Christmas will be lost and the

few remaining days in January will be of little value. Besides all this there is not the least doubt that I would make much more progress at home than here. Uncle Jeffry advised me to write to you and mention this, as he approves of it and thinks less time would be thus lost than by any other arrangement.

25th There would be no good in looking for ancient maps here, for they would certainly not be better than the Eton maps that we have. It is a great mistake to suppose that things - be they what they may - are cheaper on the continent; you can get a bad article for a small price but that can be had at home, and for a good article you must pay more than the same quality would cost in England.

I have never ^{yet} come across any article which forms an exception to this rule.

I see from the College paper that you sent me, that Trigonometry and Logic are required very soon, which forms an additional reason for getting back as soon as possible.

Adolf tells me that after completing his 5 year course at the Polytechnic here he will go for a year either to the Leipzig university or the ~~Frankfurt~~ Karlsruhe college of engineering which has the greatest reputation of all the continental establishments.

They teach a most extraordinary amount of subjects abroad; Adolf for instance is a good chemist, a tolerable geologist and has some knowledge of botany and natural history &c, &c, all of which are regularly taught in the schools but only theoretically. This is the great point where the Germans fail, everything is done by theory and nothing by practice. I wish you would send me all the

particulars that you can get regarding
the engineering school and lectures, and
as to the usual course pursued.

There is still no sign of frost ~~that~~
though the thermometer has been
withing a degree or two of freezing
point. Today it was lovely, bright
and sharp, and the town regularly
~~blocked up with the fair.~~

Uncle Frank tells me that Cunard
has consented to call at Cork which
will be a great event for that place.

Mrs Cortan says she is sure that
most of the Americans will leave
the ship there with the double object
of shortening the passage and seeing
Ireland. She tells me that the great
objection to the Galway line in America
is on account of the pecuniary mismanagement
on that line, such as stewards fees
extras &c.

Francis E Pendergast.