

Dresden. Nov. 6. 1859.

My dear Papa,

I had a walk and a talk with uncle Joe this morning; he seems to think that another year on the Continent spent - say at Geneva, would be of great advantage to me, and he said that he was going to write to you on the subject. Now this is a point which I have been thinking of all the summer and though I should ~~it~~ certainly gain something by it, yet on the whole it seems to me that more would be lost than gained. I still wish, and think that the best thing is to return at Christmas, though I am, of course, ready to do what you wish.

I do not think that any further stay would be much advantage, and to tell the plain truth, I think I have had quite enough of the continent; continental education is very well in its way, but it is a thing which can

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easily be overdone, and I have a sort of feeling that if I do not return soon it will be detrimental to me.

I feel that I am getting into a sort of careless way of working which I fear nothing but a return to the English system and competitive work can shake off. This is my own conviction. In short I want some stimulus and I believe that that stimulus is not to be found on the continent, and I think the best thing is to return at Christmas; if it was thought fitting I might easily drop a year during the course, but at present, I feel convinced, that the best thing is to return. There is no time like the present for work and I am sure that the best use of the present time would be to employ it at home.

* that can be done immediately after entering according to the paper you sent.

You might consider the following plan. Supposing I returned as at present settled, I might work on till the Trinity examination - at the end of April. I might then leave immediately for Geneva and remain there till the end of July or beginning of August or even later and then make my way home via Vienna and Dresden so as to be at home by 1st October. This would give me $3\frac{1}{2}$ months study at home, $3\frac{1}{2}$ months for picking up French and further study, and 6 weeks travel in the autumn. It seems to me that this would combine the most advantages; I would get a pul up and a start in the College business, know what I was working for, and have some idea how it was best to be done. I would then be able to enter the engineering school next Michaelmas* and would then be able to pursue my studies without further interruption; - if indeed this plan would cause any. I am really very

anxious to get back at once so as at
least to get started in the proper course.
I hope this idea may please you, for
it seems to me the best thing I can
do. Three months in a place where
I would hear nothing but French,
ought, I think to give me a fair
knowledge of that language.

I know uncle Joe is very anxious that
I should remain on the continent, now
that I am here, but I think I
have given reasons enough for the
necessity of my returning at Christmas,
and I hope that that plan will
not be altered.

Francis E. Prendergast.

to be posted tomorrow morning Nov 4.

~~Francis E. Prendergast~~