

Dresden.

December 2^d 1859.

My dear Mamma,

The proverb - it never rains but it pours -
came true yesterday morning, for in ad-
-dition to your letter came one from
Aunt Nannie, enclosing one from Mary
and an Evening Mail from uncle Frank.

I shall get the Photograph whenever the
weather gets a little brighter, but just
at present is very unfavourable.

It would hardly do to bring in my Knap-
-sack, I am afraid, ~~of~~ but if the brown
wideawake can be introduced, it shall,
though the said brown hat is in rather
a dilapidated condition from southern
suns and northern rain. I wonder what
Aunt Seacock will do with all her visitors
at Pondwell this Christmas; I know
that the house is very elastic, but I
think there must be some limit to its
stretching-powers. Are the Miss Bagets
to be there any time? I believe Miss
Courtman will supply my place in this

house; Mr Stockton is to get my room and the Countess will have the three rooms on the south side of the house.

I fancy Mr Stockton is likely to remain here as long as he is in Dresden - two or three years more, for he enjoys himself very much in this house and his father and mother are anxious that he should learn German thoroughly, which he could hardly do if he was living with them.

The Countess will ~~probably~~ stay till spring, when she will probably return to America. Stockton is so Germanised that I should not wonder if he tried for some engineering appointment in Germany.

Last night we were all together, ~~the~~ which had not happened for some time and we had great dancing; the Baron showed us a Cossack dance which looked very outlandish and none of us could imitate it.

Stockton and I gain great applause by dancing the fancy dances such as Polka-Maxaruka

and Varsovienne together and I have learned a hop Waltz which I think would astonish you. Uncle Joe was in here this morning and I am now going out to the Grosser Garten to see if I can find the three.

3^d. We have got into cold weather again all in a jump. Yesterday evening it began to freeze and the thermometer has been down all today at 5° or 6° degrees below zero i.e. about 29° Fahrenheit; ~~and~~ we shall probably have skating tomorrow, and the ice will certainly be beautiful if the frost continues; It is nice and dry under foot and Dresden always looks lively in the cold, for people are forced to keep in motion to keep warm, and it is really a charity when anything comes to put a little ~~of~~ life in them.

There is a large Vienna Circus here at present, so I suppose we shall be going to see it some of these days.

In looking over some of my boxes the other day I found some postage stamps (English) which I suppose will soon be of use. It seems that the best way will be to sleep at Dover and next morning proceed via the coast line to Portsmouth which you will see runs nearly direct. I have not written to aunt Seacock yet, but I must send her a line some day soon; according to my present intentions (supposing I do not visit Holland) I expect to be there on or about Sat. 31 Dec.

Francis E Prendergast

To be posted Sunday 4th