

Dresden. December 23. 1859.

My dear Papa,

I had just read your letter which arrived this evening, when uncle Jeffrey came in to tell me that he had got a letter from uncle Joe, saying that at Malines he had fallen in with uncle Willie. We had a great fall of ~~snow~~ snow since I last wrote, and the thermometer has been down below zero, to say nothing of the Elbe being frozen over! Unluckily it began to thaw yesterday and we had it quite warm again - a change of 50 degrees Fahrenheit in 24 hours! in the regular Dresden style.

I had just had one fortnight's un-interrupted skating, and I had got as far as going a little on the outside edge, as well as being able to go backwards.

I got a little more skating this morning, but the ice was double frozen, i.e. two separate coats of ice, and though in reality perfectly safe it seemed rather unsafe.

I have got Lady C's address - aunt Eliza sent it to me. I fully intend stopping at Brighton, on my way to Pondwell, but I am ^{not} quite settled yet as to for how long. Uncle Joe was in favour of my making the journey from Dover to Pondwell in one day, so as to avoid sleeping in Brighton which he thinks unnecessary.

It might easily be accomplished by starting from Dover at 9 a.m. and getting to Pondwell at 8 p.m. which would ~~have~~ ^{take} nearly 4 hours in

Brighton. Uncle Joe was to consult "Bradshaw" on this point and to send something further upon it, so that I may be at Pondwell on Monday night. This however is as yet unsettled, and must depend on circumstances. It is now blowing and raining in the most uncomfortable manner, apparently precluding any chance of skating for the next day or two; however after a fortnight's ~~ice~~ skating I have no reason to complain. The Elbe is all frozen over, or rather caked over, but there is never good skating on it, as it is always so rough and uneven. However I have now seen a German winter and know what

it is. The worst of the Swedish climate is these sudden changes of temperature, to day the thermometer was at 46° and perhaps tomorrow it will be down to a degree or two above zero! Fancy a change of 50 degrees in 24 hours! Do not write after the receipt of this letter as Friday is the last day that I can get English letters. I hope my books will be off before my next letter.

Francis E. Prendergast.