

Iron Bridge. June 20. 1864,

My dear Mauma,

Last Friday evening to get a little change I went to Madeby and then took train to a place called Malinslee, walked from that to Priorlee and then by Oakengates to Wellington, and train back to Lightmoor. It was all through the "Black Country" and not pretty, but interesting. Saturday J. F. Notcutt and I were up at Weulock and further, and I went up to spend the Sunday at Sutton Cottage. Josselyn was absent so we were only three. On Sunday morning Bob and I walked out to Battlefield Church  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Shrewsbury. It is a very ancient (partly restored) church & very handsome inside, with choral service

Henry II.  
time

and more R.C. customs than I ever saw  
in any church or cathedral: at the  
end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Creed the clergyman  
walked straight into the pulpit put  
his hand in his pocket, took out a  
discourse - it could not be called a  
sermon - and after reading it through,  
which certainly did not take 15 minutes,  
put it in his pocket and concluded!

Our Sunday dinner was rather nice: lamb,  
peas new potatoes, bilberry pie, cream  
cheese, strawberries and cherries, and  
the usual large amount of claret.

I found your letter here today and send  
back the notice from D. & P. Grand-  
-maamma also sent two papers for which  
I am very much obliged, the Navy

was full of news that interested me.  
I heard from Lewis on Saturday: his  
sister is dead; he expects to come  
back soon. Ridings has got a place  
under a Mr Ross who is making a  
railway near Madrid; he is to  
have £150 per annum to begin on  
and his travelling expenses out will  
be paid; he has gone to Cork to bid  
his folk farewell as he is to go out  
at once. It is likely to be a long job.  
I know no more about it but will  
tell you when I do. Coghlan, one  
of J.F.'s men who left shortly before  
I came is also likely to go out with  
Mr Ross, but he will not go under  
£250 which he is well worth being

(though very young) an man of long ex-  
-perience at the work; he was a paid  
assistant when here. I think I know  
the brother of Jones' bride; he used to  
sit next me at Exams, but I did not  
like him. Percy of Garadice, Llettrun.

Please send some more money as soon as  
convenient as I have only enough for  
this week. I have just got a pair  
of boots (cudde, lace) in the Dale and  
they seem very good, 16/- they were to be.

Also please order and send 3 more  
of my "cartes". I don't think Wales  
a good place for Geological Section  
- it is too troublesome a place and one  
of the very best places is near Ardross  
about Coal Island Pomeroy and  
Dunegunor

Dungannon, where Shillington  
made his. Tell this to Charley

Also that some of our men tried  
Wales and found it unsatisfactory.

Don't get excited about my going  
over - it may be very far on in  
autumn, but of course it is quite  
impossible now to say how soon  
or how late. I walked over the

line with J.F. to day, to see about  
the Lightmoor Junction which I  
am to arrange, it is a complicated  
place and will take much time  
and consideration, and I have  
not quite finished Bieldwas Junction  
yet though it has been on hands

for more than six weeks, and I think  
Lightmoor will take at least a  
month before even the drawings are  
ready, to say nothing of the work,  
tipping, laying rails &c. However  
they are working at Buildwas already.  
I doubt if even August 1<sup>st</sup> will  
see the line open. I think it is  
just as well to be staying another  
year with J.F. both for the name  
of it and the profit of it, but  
I wish there was more more work  
going on, there is so little to see  
now, Bob and I are the only two  
who have any real work (i.e. not  
made work) on hands.

Your affectionate son  
Francis C. Prudergast.