

Aug 28. /65

Red Lion Aberystwith

My dear Mamma,

After leaving Cardiff we went up
by rail to Merthyr Tydfil by
rail through a very fine valley
and left Tydfil on foot at 2 p.m.
whence we pursued the valley of
the Taff to the foot of the Brecon
Beacons which we got up after
a long climb and then walked
down to Brecon where we arrived
about 8. The view from the Bea-
cons is very fine and though there
were two or three distant thunder-
storms muttering on the horizon

none of them reached us. The north side of the Beacons is very like the Moornes. There is a nice little Hotel at Brecon belonging to a limited Company like many others in Wales. We went on the following morning by train to Rhayader following the valley of the Wye the whole way, we got to Rhayader at 1.30 and then further walked up the valley till we crossed the Wye just at its source on the ~~E~~ shoulder of Plynlimon. It is a lovely and ever-changing valley wooded and picturesque in the lower parts and getting wilder

and grander towards the upper parts. At one part it is somewhat like the Engadine and then narrows in to a dreary Scotchlike upland valley. We stopped at a place called Castle Taffynne Inn, an old postinghouse that had seen better days but when we found very well. On Saturday morning we left the inn at 8 and ascended Plynlimon, which was a much longer climb than we had expected but the view from the top was grand, we could see all Cardigan Bay and east as far as the Clew Hills in Shropshire. We had a bath in a mountain

stream and did not get back
to the inn till one o'clock
when we had some potatoes and
porter, shouldered our knapsacks
and set off for Aberystruth
via the Devils Bridge - 16
miles - it was a lovely walk and
the Devils Bridge is really grand
and the scenery about there very
fine for any country.

We got into Aberystruth at
7.30 and found all the hotels
full, however they took us in
here and got us beds out.

We then went to the P.O. where
I found your letters and one
from C.E. Jew. and another
from Miss V.S.

from Miss V.S. the two latter
forwarded from Blandford Place.

We then went in search of the
young ladies and found the
two Miss Newitts (alias Polly
and Patsy) just going out after
their tea, but they brought us back
and gave us some, after which
we went out and were soon joined
joined by Miss Barnett and
Miss Thomason (alias Lotie
and Emily) and spent the rest
of our evening with the four
young ladies, - is it not great
fun the idea of four young
ladies and two young gentlemen

getting on in this way! The Miss
Ns had not thought it proper
to come to Aberystwith alone
but thought four young ladies
made quite a sufficient party.

Yesterday after church we were
walking and dined with them
Miss Nevitt putting me at the
head of the table; after dinner
we sat and talked till it was
time for evening church when
Miss Nevitt, Miss Thomason, R.F.
and I went off to hear Welsh
service at a village about two
miles from this, the other two

young ladies going to Church here.
The Welsh service and singing I
thought very nice but we left
before the sermon as we should
not have been much the wiser
for that part of the service.
We then had tea when we came
home and went out walking
afterwards till 10. Is not
this the romance of touring?
We had a grand bath before
breakfast yesterday, but it is
raining this morning so we could
not get one. I don't know
what we shall do to day, the
young ladies are going home and I

dare say we shall go part of the way with them. Miss N. has invited me to Shrewsbury along with R. F. to ~~live~~ at their house and apologises for not having a bed offer as there is only one spare room which R. F. has been long before invited to occupy during his stay in Shrewsbury but I do not yet know if I shall go there at all.

I have laid out no route to Bath yet.

Your affectionate son

Francis E. Prendergast.