



My Dear Sir

Paris, Aug 18th 51

The last letter we sent home was written some four weeks ago from Venice and directed to Joe; before going further I shall mention why we have written so seldom, yet to write a long letter when traveling requires more time & labor than we, or rather I, for Bill would never write unless I continually worried him about it, felt inclined or able to bestow upon it. I did, but principally after it was written it required too much postage to forward it: in Venice I paid 85 cents postage on Joe's letter & on this I will have to pay 60 cents, which the post master here says pays for its passage to New York: Bill says he prepaid every letter he sent home & still thought the master makes us pay for them there, this should not be allowed: there are no postal arrangements between France & America & consequently every letter must be prepaid in going from France to the conspires of America. But enough of this for the present, and now for narrative. Of Venice I can say but little except that it is a city of & to itself in this world. The above is an accurate engraving of the only square in the city: the large houses on the right & left are the remains, almost, of what were superb palaces in the days of Venetian glory. That tierced & cupolosed building in the background is an old but magnificent Church, built entirely of white marble & gilded and painted, & literally covered with the richest mosaics I ever saw. The "Campanile" or tower is the belfry of the Church, & just behind in the distance is the old Palace of the Doges, the rulers of what was once styled the republic of Venice. On that square towards upon the far end of the left hand palace is a small cupola, wherein is a large bell attached to a clock below & every time the clock strikes this bell is struck by two bronze statues who have in their hands a large sledge hammer; by close inspection you can probably discern it. This square together with the three arm & decaying marble palace which are to be seen on every canal through the city are now all that remain of what once was the "Queen of the ocean", they look quite ordinary but when closely examined prove to be erected out of the purest marble. The romances that have been written & the poetry sung of the handsome gondoles of Venice, must now be taken for romance indeed, for such things as splendid gondolas are never to be seen: but those that are there seem to be the

"floating sepulchres of the dead"; for all of them are long, unsmooth black boats, each having a canopy of black which really makes them seem to be in mourning for the lost greatness of their peculiar city. We remained in Venice about 4 days, & then concerted to cross what the ancients termed the treacherous Adriatic, but when proposed to us to be as calm & placid as a millpond; six hours sail brought us to Trieste, a most flourishing little town where much English is spoken, many Yankee vessels are to be seen & indeed where everything looks American. From this town we took "Eligence" for near 24 hours passing over a ridge of mountains & through a most picturesque country; we next met the "Glenner de fer" (R.Road) which took us to Vienna; this is the prettiest town I ever saw, & except that it is about half the size is certainly preferable to Paris: here we stayed 5 days & then took the R.Road for Prague, or to Dresden & Berlin: with these towns we were not much pleased, but seeing a most beautiful country & some magnificent sights we of course felt satisfied with the trip. I often thought of Pa & Hugu and wished that they could have seen the country between Vienna & Prague, so like is certainly not to be found in the world besides: the distance is near 200 miles, & through the entire route I do not think there is to be seen a hill 20 feet high, and some places the view in every direction is so unobstructed that the horizon actually seems lower than the point upon which you are standing: I do not remember of having seen twenty acres of wood land, or a single fence, ditch, or hedge, but every man's farm separated from his neighbour by a deep furrow of the plough, every inch of the country is under cultivation, & now every stage of it can be seen, in some places the land being broken up, in others covered with ripening grain, in others waiting in yellow wheat, in others being cleared by the scythes & reapers, and yet in others covered with most beautiful cattle, sheep & hogs, grazing & browsing about sometimes in & inches of a neighbour's wheat which they are afraid to touch for fear of a rather severe rebuke from the shepherd's dog under whose vigilant supervision they are while in these fields: such a sight as this would necessarily be enjoyed by the most indolent man in our country. While this country is so much to be admired on an agricultural point of view, it is to be despised politically & religiously, for the people are enveloped in ignorance & ruled by priests religiously while politically they allow themselves to be subjected in the most cruel military despotism. Soldiers are as common there as negroes with us, & they of course keep the people from ever enjoying a thought of freedom. Leaving Berlin we came to Frankfurt on the Rhine which here is called a free city, but which too is regularly studded with Prussian & Rhenish soldiers; from here we went to Wiesbaden the great watering place of Germany where we saw respectable ladies & some as old as Ma standing by & betting heavily at the card table. What would our pious community think of the morals of such a people? Thence we went down the Rhine, which with all its world wide reputation, except in its castellated hills is not to compare with the scenery of the French coast or Ohio: but of course anything foreign though exactly like we have at home must be called far superior or you are at once denounced by the travelling highlanders, or learned minyammers as a man of decided bad taste; this is the truth is that we should believe about our third & that greatly modified of what most men speak of travels: I know that I have now seen enough for them not to grieve me any more. But I must stop & give. But a few lines now as she has been so kind as not to write me since I've left home or if she has I've never received it and cannot therefore be thankful for it. I thank you much for your long & very interesting letter which brought such good news of all quarters: With great love, dear Sir, I am your affec. brother. E. M. A. T.

My Dear Cat

I hope as my narrative is nearly finished you will not consider me prosy if I now continue until I arrive at Paris following as we the Rhine we stopped a day at Cologne which though the fountain^{head} of the Christianizing, it is much the source of the filthiest waters for it is the dirtiest city except Rome that we have met on the continent. I purchased a bottle of the genuine article & words have been delighted to have done so for each of you at once but as it was, upon my mind, that to pay a duty before I could get it into Paris, so if I had purchased for all it would have cost me my purse before getting it home. From Cologne we went to Brussels, stopping a few hours at Aix-la-Chapelle the ancient capital of all of Germany & the seat of Charlemagne's court, but we saw again the almost boiling sulphur water pouring profusely from the springs which cover the city. Brussels we found to be a beautiful city almost as fashionable as Paris & offering many temptations to the stranger's purse, this however is the case everywhere but more particularly at Brussels. The Brussels lace which we saw being made was very enticing but too costly the commonest handkerchief costing for not less than five dollars, not being judges of these articles we were afraid to purchase but of men's clothing we saw some quite as fine & were of course compelled to buy. I often thought that if Pa had just given me about one hundred dollars to buy "remnants" pieces &c for the family which he does every year in Charleston, I could have easily bought twice as much & better articles for the same money. And it is the same with every other article of domestic consumption. I know that 1000 dollars laid out here & shipped for that purpose to La Co, where we would have to pay but little duty, would benefit our family three times the amount in the next three years. Bill went to first tailor in the city & asked him to make him his first dress coat for which he only charged \$18. He then ordered him an overcoat to practice in lined with silk & wadded through out for this he asked but \$14. I should not advise adventures now to be made use of & my funds are at that time getting low or I would have broken myself buying many hundreds such articles that I've seen & known that we needed at home. At Ghent I saw some perfectly handsome military equipments but could not of course buy for I knew not whether the law would be entitled or allowed to sponge on them. After a very pleasant sojourn in Brussels of four days we set off for Paris feeling as though we were returning to our second home, as Bill was well acquainted with the city & I was anxious to get to some place where I could for a time rest from the fatigue of traveling. When we left Paris for our tour we directed him to keep our letters for by forwarding them they might reach us as we were very uncertain what route we would take after we got through with Italy. The first morning after our return we hurried off immediately to get the news from home, and to our great satisfaction found a letter from Abigail & one from Liza both of which we read & reread; they were of very different characters but both of them were unusually interesting. I was happy to hear of your going to the springs & hope when I return to find you so much benefited that you will appear quite healthy & almost robust. But Maria's traveling to the springs & staying at a hotel is an idea that always gives me a laugh when I recall it: I hope she & you paid your nightly visits to the ball room & enjoyed the merry dance. I suppose it reminded you of the days of yore when she used to be the belle of our town. How she improved? I fear he is not cautious enough, & does not live a sufficiently active life; Bill says he should be prepared to go to hard work immediately upon his graduation; she says, to be active exercise, stop smoking, & be careful of cold is what he recommends: He will certainly determine before next January what he intends doing when that time arrives: if he does not, tell I say, to make up his

mind to leave home if he has it to do with a drapack on his shoulder & go on foot. Of Hugh's election I don't know
what to say or think; Gen Buchanan must be certainly infected with that species of hypocrisy which like an epi-
demic, has of late taken possession of so many of our half-made men. From what I now understand of the affair
I firmly believe that either obstinacy, or hypocrisy & not the consciousness to fulfil his duty, has been the motive
that actuated the old fellow. Never mind, I believe that another empire duly awaits merit, and we shall get
success to the mortification of a great many self-styled gentlemen. Conner Wm told us yesterday that Hugh was
really elected & had been commissioned; this was news that I did not know how to construe after reading Gen B's
approval of the decision of the H^{of} France. He also told us that John Means told him just before leaving Charleston that
he hoped that Gen B would confirm that decision for it was to be given to Hugh. "O dura mensura iudicis", if they ever
swallowed this they certainly never could digest it. I don't understand Hugh's offering the Brigade Major's office to Randolph.
I'll now stop about things at home & say a little of ourselves. We arrived safely back in Paris two days ago & immediately
hired two rooms where we are now comfortably lodged & where I intend remaining near a month till Bill finishes with
his course of medicine; we called the other morning to see Conner Wm & after a pleasant chat of an hour he insisted upon our
dinner with him, which we did at five o'clock. This was the first time I had been in company with his lady, & was
very much pleased with her, she seemed very social & quite interesting; their little near-sighted daughter had not much
to say but was also socially inclined, and Miss Lorraine who is with them added too a little to the pleasantness of the
party. He is very kind & begs us to call in at any time as we are passing; he is occupying rather elegant apartments
in one of the most fashionable boulevards. Speaking of elegance, reminds me that since I left you, my dear love
I have walked through the richest palaces of the wealthiest kings, I have gazed with wonder at the pomp of the
viceroys of the Catholics, I have lodged in splendid buildings, model cottages, & the almost humblest hut, I have
found most sumptuously off the best prepared meals, & dined heartily off the thick cream & snow-white honey of the Alps, but
I have no where yet seen any diet that I would exchange our own table for, nor have I yet nor will I ever meet with
a place which would afford me as much happiness as I anticipate enjoying comedy at home if my health is allowed me.
Which by the way I am sorry to say has been worse this summer than I ever knew it. I have gone to bed one night with
a chill, several nights with sick headache, & suffered all the time with a pain in my side that seems to have settled
itself there permanently; Bill has several times examined my side, but sees nothing or hears nothing, but evidently knows
that something is wrong. He seems to be in fine health, talks sometimes of having no appetite, but like the rest of us
who complain of the same disease, all ways makes out to eat his meals & French fashion to drink his bottle of wine for
dinner. He talks occasionally of his attachment for P, but at the same time expresses himself as being unworthy of
any woman; it is then that I can see the same old hyps overcoming him sometimes. He is however well & hopes to be in
Charleston by the middle of Nov, so do answer this directly as you receive it & direct to Liverpool to Coleman & L.
We will sail between the 15th & 20th of Oct. Remember me to Miss Margaret & tell her she can kiss the original in
stead of the likeness of she'll wait about 3 months. How is Maria getting on, Bill says tell her not to despair, he
will never forget her. Remember me to Miss Mackay, & give my love to all the family, & Jim's family & re-
spect to enquiring friends. Do forgive my mistakes in the pages of this letter. I am dear love your affect Pers. L. & A.