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(To Miss Jennette Osler *from WU Mar.* 1874)

Vienna
March 22nd

My dear Jennette

I called at the Krankenhaus this evening & there was delighted to get yours of the 4th with the Mothers enclosure. My emotional Thermometer has gone up at least 20° at the good news, and all anxiety on my part about the disfigurement has passed away. It is uncommonly satisfactory. Doctors & nurses, indeed the whole Hospital Staff are to be congratulated on the happy result. The patients themselves no doubt feel "that within which passeth show" - even if the condition of their faces would enable them to express it Give the patients my best love & congratulations. Your little details were most acceptable, the former accounts were too general for an M.D. I trust this week to begin my homeward progress and will probably get as far as Paris by Saturday It is a matter of some forty hours by rail & I shall probably break the journey either at Munich or Strafsburg, the galleries attracting at the former, the Laboratories at the latter. A good deal will depend on how I feel on getting to Munich after a night on the train. My friend Hutchinson is still in Paris & will act as guide there I expect to be in London for Easter Sunday As a pleasing change we had our proper Parson at the chapel today, in whose place a converted Native has been officiating for some time. Anything - High - Low - Broad-will do for me after six months on the Continent. The chaplain here, a Mr Johnson, is a remarkably fine looking old man, with long white hair and a face which reminds me of the portraits of the old Musicians There is a dash of sadness also about it as though he was one of those who did not "take the current when it served" & hence the consequence - a chaplaincy abroad, instead of a Bishopric at home. You see I am rather Shakespearian tonight. Shakespeare has been my light literature for some time: that accounts for it We - Steven & I - went for a long walk this afternoon to the Prater Park and the new Danube Channel in process of making. This latter is a wonderful work of engineering. The River just north of Wien takes a bend, breaks into several streams and unites again a few miles below the city This channel when finished will unite the river from the point where it divides above to where it again becomes a single stream below. It is really a vast work, but well on to completion. The Viennese justly feel very proud of it The bed will be quite ~~(is in parts)~~ as wide as the Thames at London and deep enough for large vessels to come up. The Prater Park is not unlike Kensington Gardens but treble the size The Exhibition Buildings still stand, the material not being worth the expense of pulling it down Prater Strasse running through the Park is the Rotten Row of Wien and as the afternoon was a fine one, the youth & beauty of the city mustered in force The women dress very neatly, occasionally overdoing it, but 'passing fair' is almost overdoing it for their faces. The private carriages & horses are good (as they are English), & if it were not for the number of cabs whose drivers are veritable Jehus, one might fancy himself in Hyde Park. I am going to do the Royal Treasury & Stables, with one or two other little things this week, & then shall have pretty well finished the Vienna sights. My next will probably be dated Paris

[McKenzie]

Love to all

Yours

Willie

P.S. ~~I have heard from Marian lately she sails on the (I forget)~~