

May 15th 1902
Rock Ferry -

Dear Family,

After we left Inverness we had a charming run along the Irish Coast, it is high land looking rather bare & desolate, but with some slopes divided into fields, & the light houses looking picturesque in the headlands. The entrance to Belfast Lough was very pretty & we could see a town plainly on the banks. Also we passed two first-class cruisers one towing the other & a small tug behind to balance the one being towed, which seemed very light on the water, & our naval friends thought was going to be repaired, each cruiser, had 4 funnels of a yellow colour. & they can run at 22 knots an hour.

The Isle of Man was the next interest about 80 m long, we sailed past the S. shore, very bare, not one tree to be seen but bold fine cliffs & detached rocky islets. The opening between the island & the coast of Man, was beautiful, & a detached island with an arch opening through it & far out a tower-like light house standing sentinel. The other side of Man a more sloping & less rocky & there the town of Douglas lies, behind a farm after farm up the slope of the



hill, till a general blue shade seems
to indicate grass, or some shrubby
covering. We also saw a fleet of
fishing boats - such a pretty sight,
one heeled quite close with the
sun shining upon the tan-coloured
sails - they are actually tanned in
some oak bark solution which pre-
serves them, but costs a good deal
more than a white sail. The Jap-
anese observing the colour & not
grasping the idea of why coloured have
begun to dye their sails, & fishing boats
may be seen in Eastern waters with
pink & blue sails. Is that not odd?

I told some one about our arrival
here. what has chiefly struck me as
English, is the tender business of even a
clear day, the solid walls, & lovely
judges & the hosts of chimneys or rather
chimney pots, which point skyward.
also I am already keen about shutting
the door, for the best of reasons, the
weather is really cold. today it is
equally & raining in addition - I can
not realize that I have only been here
3 days - yesterday we went to town
by ferry - & had a general introduction
to the shops. The only one that charmed
me was Liberty's, but as we were
chiefly attending to recent Evas affairs

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The 9 Blanche are going there till end of June. The Coronation is now under discussion, but I do not feel drawn to it. Peter has a good place at the Club & I & I have the first offer, but of course some one must pay for this: & at best it would be a costly business, & a little & a rest. & I think I will decide against it. This Welsh drive is exactly a treat after my own heart & will afford me the greatest pleasure, if it materializes =

Friday evening.

Though it rained steadfastly all yesterday, aunt Sue & I went over to Mrs. Brown's as it was her day, we found her alone, very pleased to see us, she certainly looks rather withered since last I saw her & has the air of being dried up, that I would not have expected from one who has lived so long in England, but she was as alert & brisk & active as ever. I saw no sign of failure in her, Maggie well preserved. I saw a beautiful picture of Alice & her husband, taken in the Stoneleigh driveway, in her wedding dress & another of the bridesmaids. Mrs. Scott is coming down to Southampton to have some electric treatment for her rheumatism & later will be at the Craue's so I will try & see her at one place or the other. Carrie is still in France.

Hopi was quite prepared to dispatch

I don't think we were in the show shops
I was not struck by the cheapness of things
Ribbons did not seem specially cheap
or various other little things I priced.
The cardinal silk like Clare's new blouse
was 1/3 about 30^{cts} & Aunt Eva got some
cotton stockings for 6 1/2 which she says she
always pays for them, as more satisfactory
than good ones which need mending, & are
outgrown. Tell Ruth that very conventional
patterns, in fact Noah's ark-y patterns are
very much in style, so her trees at Metis
in her curtains are quite the thing.

I find basket-trunks are much
cheaper than with us. but there is a
newer thing, made specially for the Indian
trade of cane & wire, & very light & strong.
it is expensive, but the best thing I ever
saw in a trunk, & rather ugly, a snuffy
kind of brown with red hore bindings.
As far furniture the price is terrific.
Aunt E. wanted a dressing table &
washing stand of ash. which by the way
seems to be considered something very good
here, & the cheapest we saw were \$8. - for
the two. of course they were hand made
carpets on the other hand seem to me
very cheap.

I am sorry today is so dismal for
Mrs Athin had kindly offered us her
carriage - by the weather is kind we are
to drive down to Holywell next week
sleeping two nights on the way & to spend
two weeks with Mrs A. as her guest.

Ann. & myself to the coronation, & we³
had the first offer of some places at a club
window for which of course N.Y.A. would
have to pay, but when I had thought
it carefully over, I could not see that it
was worth while, Ann. & I were not very
keen about it, & perhaps she & I may
take a trip up to London before or after
the fuss, & see the more permanent rights
but that is indefinite - Today again
has been thoroughly wet, I did go out
a little way with the children, but
the rain is so very penetrating, that I was
glad to resume my station at the fire.

There are streaks of hope, now in the
West, which I trust may prove the har-
bingers of sunshine - We were to have gone on
drive today with Bella Greenhills in the
park. & back to tea, but it was im-

possible - Last night we went to an
exhibition of gymnastics & dancing, Grace
& Silvia were among the performers, & very
well they acquitted themselves, there was
a few pieces of a most complicated
nature involving so many steps & moves,
it was surprising. We were
sitting next the vicar & his wife, a Mrs. Lay-
Kendall was also at hand with his fine
gold chain & a smiling wife. Mrs. Kendall
was there & came up to speak to me in the
10 m. interval, she wants us to go to tea on
Wednesday - & sent warmest greetings

to grandmama, I wanted to know all
about her - People here seem struck
by my likeness to Eva, several people
said, they saw at once I was her sister
& knew I must be a near relation.

H. T. G. was down at Holyhead ~~on~~
Wednesday & came back last night
bringing two rabbits from the estate.
Silvia has one little chicken just hatched
& great rejoicing in consequence.

We talk of going to see the Rhodo-
dendrons at Birkenhead park tomorrow
if fine, it is an old promise to the
children here -

With all love to every one
farewell -

Aunt

I have been thinking of Conrad &
his exams - I hope he has passed them a
easy, as he deserves to after his faithful
work.