



Prussia -

Feb. 25th 1872

My dear Mary,

As I sit down to write to you, every idea seems to have fled, though I have got lots to tell about our trip to Berlin. I'm at a loss to know how to get there, by rail I suppose you will say, & that is the way we did have it - Luisa & I starting off last Monday morning and after a journey of some hours reached what is now I suppose the city of Europe, for since the downfall of Paris, Berlin has rapidly gone in the scale, the number of inhabitants has increased and so had the price of everything - We went to the park in the city, situated on the celebrated Unter den Linden (Under the Lime trees) but I must say the two rows of said Limes are decidedly scrubby and I disappointed. But the whole effect of this part of the city is fine, for in this vicinity, the palace, the University, the Museum & the Opera house are all situated - And at the extremity of the Linden stands a beautiful statue in bronze of Frederic the Great, it is one of the master pieces of a great German sculptor named Rauch, and is considered the grandest monument in Europe - None of the Royal family would be obliging and come to the windows when we were passing, so I didn't see the Emp

nor the Crown Princesses, but at the Opera
had the honour of gazing at the Crown
Prince (a cat may look at a king you
know) and a host of other grandees, but
between you & I, they are not very different
from common folk - except that
some common folks wouldn't wear
their dresses quite as short at the
top, and would have something on
the way of sleeves - but have necks
served well to show off most brilliant
necklaces of diamonds & emeralds
so I suppose it was all right - Louis
took you to see the "ballet" for which
Berlin is celebrated - The dancing was
perfectly wonderful, so light and
graceful, such utter disregard of
any thing like bones or joints, you
can't imagine; then the effects of
colour & light were beautifully managed,
but I didn't enjoy it, it seemed so
dreary to think of so many young
girls devoting lives to such an occupation
all natural feelings of modesty must be
entirely lost - The opera I liked far
better, some of the scenery was perfect
& I suppose I will never hear better
singing & music, the name of the
Prinka donna was "Lucca" she was
pretty, acted well but misdirectly &
drugs without the least apparent
effort -

The second day that we were away
we went to Potsdam, a short
distance from B - and I did enjoy
it so much, the place is full of

historical interest connected with Frederick
the Great - We went first through the
"Schloss" (or Palace) in the town and saw
many rooms left just as Frederick
left them, his writing table covered
with pale blue damask, with ink
blots all over & where he sat and
made his plans. In the "Seven Year
War" in a drawer were laid the foot
he wore during that Campaign - &
his flute of which he was so fond.
The State Chambers throughout the
palace were comfortably but not ex-
travagantly furnished. Instead of
steps on top of the stairways was in the
form of a plain, so that
the father of Frederick the Great, who
suffered very much from gout and
was rolled up and down in his chair.
In the Garrison Church close by are
the tombs of F. the G. & his father
the top of the former's coffin, supported
with a silver cross, carried off
with him & it has never been found
since - From here we drove to
Palace & Gardens of "Sans Souci"
"without care" or troubles of any life.
Frederick the Great loved to live -
Summer it must be lovely, but
the season the grounds only looked
dreary but the interior of the Palace
was very interesting, containing a
dold by many requisites of
furniture. I saw now the residence
the queen dowager of Frederick the
II who died in 1841, but fortunately
she was absent so we could walk
where we wished - The rooms of F. the G.
are as he last used them - The chair
he died in stands as it stood then
& near it is a small clock, which

he always wound up himself, and which by a curious coincidence stopped at the very moment of his death. His books were nearly all French, a language and literature of which he was very fond, and at the time Voltaire was his most intimate friend. The room that he occupied in the palace was very interesting on account of the curious decorations which adorned it, but the story is too long to write, & (if I don't forget) ^{must} be left till I see you. Scattered all through the grounds, are statues, obelisks, a miniature Greek temple containing a beautiful monument to Queen Louisa & a large orangery the centre part of which is a picture gallery containing copies of all Raphael's paintings - The old historical windmill, that I & the G. wanted to purchase to include in the Sans Souci grounds, but which the old miller wouldn't sell, they went to law about it & the King lost the suit - it still belongs to the descendants of the same family & the King has built them a very comfortable house near by - Then after driving a little further we came to the little Palace of Charlottenhof, which the late King used to occupy in Summer, when he was Crown Prince - It is very small and fitted up in Pompeian style & round the top of one the rooms are fourteen veritable frescoes excavated at Pompeii and presented by the

very house being pointed out to us - From here
we crossed the Rhine on a very old bridge built
1400 of red sandstone - In the centre is a statue
of Charles V and by his side mounted on an
iron post is a Bill-Cock - for a legend says that
the architect vowed that the first object that crossed
the bridge, on its completion, should be sacrificed
to the Devil, & fortunately a cock-a-doodle-do was
the victim. In the museum here we saw the celebrated
statue of "Griadsine on the Panther" by Danneberg
it is very beautiful and shows to superb good advan-
tage on a revolving stand, and enclosed on all
sides by crimson curtains - Around the top of the
room were some fine bas-reliefs by Thorwaldsen
the Danish sculptor - The gallery of paintings
at Frankfurt is celebrated for its modern
paintings, and some of them are very beautiful
"John Bull before the Council of Constantine" by Lessing
wonderfully lifelike - Also another by Lessing "The
suspense" in the Illustrated some time ago
"John Bull in prison, exhorted to repentance by
his mouth" I always liked the picture & was
glad to see the original - That time wears
I suppose is coming to an end so I must
close the rest I have to say about this most interest-
ing of places till we meet - I don't know where
we have enjoyed anything more than our hurried
visit - Sunday was very quiet - not a "Handlung"
was, for most of the inhabitants are protestant
that makes me think of just over the more
the corner of a St. facing the Cathedral is an
old house where Luther addressed the people from
a window where he was on his way to the diet at
 Worms - at the side of the door is a grotesque effigy
of the reformer in painted Terra Cotta - not of a
correct likeness I should say -

Dresden - Dec 12th I find I have just a
few moments in which to jumble off
my letter so that it may be in time for
this week's mail so you must not
wait - I came all the way from
Frankfurt, by way of Liegnitz, Götter
Leipzig to Dresden yesterday, & in
letting here till between eleven & 12

Oh so cold, tired and hungry - when we
got to the station we couldn't speak a
word of this jaw breaking language
but by dint of holding up two fingers
we made the man understand that
we wanted 2 tickets No 2 Wiener Strasse
& at last we got here, but found every
body in bed as they had given us up
it was rather cheerless, no friends,
no fire, nothing hot to eat or drink -
but soon the ladies & Miss Kelli appeared
in their ascension robes and made us
as welcome as they could & we
glad we all are to meet. Next time
I will tell about our quarters here
where we & will probably be
for the next two months.

It's cold cold, with as much snow
as we have at home at this season
& some comfortless sleep good
found without buffalo robes

If you want any particular
music you had better let me
know for you can get it
here for a mere song - with
very much love to you and
all I am in tremendous haste

Your loving sister

Charlotte

I heard a beautiful little
song called "Écoute pecheur".

It was copied music so I don't know

was the composer - the accompaniment was of mine.