

58 rue de Valenciennes.

Tuesday Oct 5th 1875.

Acc 076

My dear Father,
I went to the Ecole des
C. & L. this morning to enquire
what I was expected to do seeing
that I had not received the letter
which I am expecting from them
and this is the day that the
examinations commence. I was
brought up stairs to the room
where the exams were going on,
as they had already commenced,
and was there met by several
of the School authorities. They
did not seem to know exactly
what to make of me, especially
as my name was not down
ing the list of those who had
been notified to present them-
selves for examination. I
explained to them what the
Secretary had told me, where

upon I was escorted downstairs to his office; after an interview and general consultation among all present, I was told I need not disquiet myself; that it would be all right. The Secretary seemed a little put out that I had not put more implicit trust in his assurance, and wondered how I had found out the day of the commencement of the Exams without being told. I wished, however, to put in an appearance today to prevent any difficulty which might arise from my not having done so, and also I wished to know more definitely what I was to expect. I have also now several witnesses to my action, and I feel that I have been practically excused from the Exams. The

responsibility also will rest with them and not with me for any thing done wrong in the matter; and besides they would not give me these assurances unless they were confident of the result themselves; so that I suppose I may content myself with these reflections, and consider myself safely admitted, although not officially.

I received your letter of the 20th left for the Secretary, & I also have to acknowledge yours of the 24th which I arrived this morning from you. I have told Madam that I may change at the end of the month and I therefore feel myself free to do so if I hear from you in answer to my next letter & telegram that you wish me to do so. I must say candidly that I do not think I am likely to be any better off, it may be pleasanter perhaps in some ways, but I do not

think that makes it worth the dif-
ference in price. In regard to food
I honestly think they give quite as
good food at restaurants as one
would be likely to get in a family.
French people when they have their
own way eat such queer dishes,
while at a restaurant one can choose
what he likes & there are always
several good substantial articles
on the bill of fare. The chance
of sickness which you refer to is
certainly worth consideration
and points rather in the family
direction. Still I am sure Madame
here, would wait on me if I required
any special attention, and she has
already offered to cook my meals
& serve them up in my room if
I prefer it to going to a restaurant.
and as to friends I have several
already and will give doubt soon
have more. Mr. Hollard, the minister
of the Church I attend is a very
kind person, and I am sure he
would be glad to do anything for me

The church is in the Rue de Maan
just off the edge of the plan I sent
and ~~has~~ the congregation is quite
considerable. He preaches at 4.30
in the mornings and has a kind
of Bible-lesson in the evening, at
7.30. Their Sunday School meets
at 10.30 in the morning, but I
cannot attempt anything in that
direction at present. M. Holland
lives in the top flat of the building
so he is quite near me here as
the church is only round the first
corner.

Everyone in Paris lives in
this style; even families rent
a flat in one of these maisons
meubles to live in. There is one
on this flat, whose door is next
to mine, and all the flats below
seem occupied in the same way.

People are just beginning to return
from the country now, as the
schools commence this month. I
expect to see M. Bonthiller one
of these days. He was returned on the

fourth. In regard to heating, I have found out
little more about that too. It is ordered by the
"hundred" (hundred pounds) when required. A hundred
costs about ^(fifty hits) two francs & a half, and lasts 7 or 8 days
with a fire in the morning & evening which will be
all I will require. Then for kindling little "faggots" are
used, which are about the size of the bundles of kindling
wood made at the House of Refuge. There are two
for 5 sous or 8 for the franc. I have only had
one fire on yet, as the weather is still quite mild,
but of course I intend to make myself comfortable
in that respect, as there is no economy possible in
that direction, in fact it is altogether on the other
side. In a ~~small~~ family too, I would have to heat
my own room at my own expense, which might
come to a considerable little extra, especially considering
that they charge so much to begin with. Still I suppose
one could use their rooms to study in; but it would
still be necessary to have one's bedroom somewhat
warmed every if only for sleeping in. Madame says
she has a quantity of good firewood which she will
sell at the ^{same} ~~present~~ price as the merchants, & I charge
nothing for bringing it up stairs. I have a box
under one window sill to hold wood, & I think I
will find myself quite comfortable in that respect.
I cannot get more than a hundred pounds at a time how-
ever, & if the price rises during the winter, I cannot help
it. The only trees that have as yet parted with their
leaves are the elms, or at least their leaves have turned
brown, but they are the first. The temperature is still
pleasant although the days are usually cloudy and it rains

occasionally. I will be very careful
about my clothing & see that I am
comfortable.

I intend this month to take
things easy on the whole. I can
spend my time profitably in read-
ing some French literature, and I
have also a couple of Scott's novels
that I wish to read. I will keep
out doors as much as possible, &
walk about, or if warm enough I
can sit in the gardens here & read.
I have bought Voltaire's "Siècle
de Louis XIV." and there are several
other works I wish to know more
of. I will also spend some time
in studying, but not too much,
and I have a good deal of diary
to write & accounts to make up
when I choose to do so.

With much love

Believe me

Your affectionate son

William