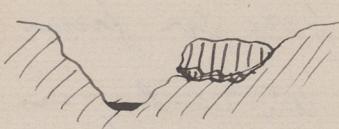


S.M.
Clement Lorrain
Dept. Puy de Dome, France
June 26. 1882

My dear Father,

I have been here now several days & propose leaving for Le Puy or St Etienne day after tomorrow. This is a town of over 40,000 inhabitants but a very old fashioned sort of place. Most of the streets are crooked, steep & dirty & bordered by houses which seem to have stood much as at present since the middle ages. It is the largest place in the Auvergne district & a sort of centre from which excursions can be made. I have not yet however been able to find out exactly where the limits of the Auvergne region are, for what

We once here been so called is all
split up into departments, & the
name Amorgue nowhere appears on
the map. I was at the summit of the
Puy de Dome yesterday in a fog, but
there were good views on the way up.
You go from here to the base ^{of the actual cone} about
ten miles, in a carriage, & then to
the top (in about an hour) either on
foot or in a two wheeled vehicle
drawn by two horses in tandem
viz. The geology of the district about
here is very interesting, & the
newest lava flows still remain
quite rough & unduged, though
overgrown with vegetation. Two
days ago I visited some lead
mines & smelting works at

a place called Pont Gibaut, a
 most romantic little Valley. A
 lava stream has then flowed down
 the old valley, & the river has cut
 out a new bed to one side yet
 something like this - 

The rocks below are gneissic & schistose, & below the basalt is the pebble bed of the old stream. There are several thermal establishments & numerous mineral springs through this country, some of which are fashionable resorts, but frequented chiefly by French people. One of these, Royat, is only about two miles from Clermont, of which it may

in fact almost be counted a
Suburb. There are yet a number of
grand houses, with pretty gardens &
balcony arrangements. The weather has
not yet, however, been hot enough to
bring many people here, & the season
can scarcely be said to have begun.
Every where Roman remains abound.
at Royat some baths in very good
preservation were recently excavated. On
the summit of the Bay de Drome are
the ruins of an extensive temple of
Mercury. They were uncovered at
the time of the erection of the Methodist
observatory now established there.
The mountains are glorious not
very high, but the country is very
ruous & the very picturesque.

The slopes are all well cultivated up to a certain height. Covered with vineyards & little fields, which are sometimes walled or hedged, but more usually quite open. Narrow paths & lanes wind everywhere. The people out of the towns are exceedingly primitive. The women sit out in the fields as they do in Switzerland watching their cattle sleep nroats, & spinning or knitting. They speak a nearly unintelligible patois, are frequently affected by goitre, shriveled up at an early age int. most interesting specimens, wear immense Sabots, & have all the other pictur-esque traits of an undrugged, uncleanly, ignorant & very religious peasantry.

I have not heard from home
for some time, but hope to find some
letters at Le Puy, where I asked
Arthur Crow to forward any which
might arrive up to a certain date.

With love to all

your affectionate son

George

P.S. I purchased a collection of
250 small specimens of rocks &
minerals of the Auvergne district, from
a collector here, paying 62 francs for it.
This is at the rate of 25 centimes per
specimen which I find much cheaper &
convenient than buying them up for over 50c.
The same collection, but composed of
large specimens (about the size of those of
rocks in Govt. Survey Collection) may be
procured at the rate of 50 centimes per
specimen.