

Nevers. June 26/83

My dear Anna,

I left Paris this

morning a little before noon, & arrived
here at 7.30 Why I am here I would
be hard to explain. I am supposed to
be on my way to Clermont & the
Auvergne country on a geological excursion,
but thinking it would be rather far to go
to Clermont in one day looked this
place up on the map & decided to stay
here all night. It is a stupid dull
little place & at present perfectly
situated, as it has been raining all
day. I got perfectly disgusted with
Paris seeing the same streets & same
amusements every day & so decided to
leave. I wish some one who could
derive pleasure or profit from travelling

were here ~~unloaded~~ you. If I
 could only sleep all day as well as at
 night I would be wondrously happy.
 If Letter were here in France he
 would be very about with the
 greatest interest getting collections &
 seeing what was to be seen. I seem
 to be too old to take any pleasure in
 such things; & Geology interests
 me, well fully as much as
 astrology for instance. Yesterday
 night I was at the Grand Opera
 in Paris & saw a piece called
 Aida. The Music is by Verdi
 & I believe the piece is new, or at
 least comparatively so. The
 same is in Egypt & much care
 has evidently been taken to
 reconstruct the surroundings as they

should be. The dresses are of course magnificent. The opera receives about 400,000 francs annually from govt. besides what they take for their 2000 seats & so is able to do things in style. At one time there were 2000 tickets, about 400 people in the stage, forming a crowd of soldiers, priests, murderers &c. &c.

The hay is all cut in this part of the country & the barley & oats being turned yellow, so that the harvest cannot be far off. much of the ground heretofore is taken up with ring roads in which the ringar known as *vin ordinaire*

& from the language of the people
is produced. If the grapes were
not so poor one would be inclined
to think them wanted in being
converted into such wine.

Travelling in gareon is not a very
lively occupation at best & I had
such a hideous old french woman
opposite me in the railway today
that I have not yet recovered from
the mental impression received, &
I dream from nightmares.

I suppose you will be at
Nantes by the time this reaches, &
so address it there. Hope you
may have a pleasant summer.
Excuse mine at present
Yours
Scott