

Zurich, Switzerland
July 26th 1885

Dearest Love,

Here I am in Switzerland - when I was expected to be - and beautiful weather still following me I have really been most fortunate as regards weather - now & then a hot day, but still never so hot as we have it in Montreal. Since last I wrote to you I have done & seen so many things that I scarce know where to begin. Indeed it seems as if a month had passed instead of a week. Last Sunday, as you know, I spent in Dresden, but early the following morning went to Freiberg in Saxony, a quaint little town which is losing little of its quaintness. In many of the former towns the old buildings are fast disappearing and their place being taken by others of modern design. But in Freiberg this is not the case; for there stagnation reigns. The mines of the vicinity have become less & less profitable and therefore the town which is largely made up of people directly or indirectly interested in the mines has dwindled rather than increased. The mining

school, however, has kept up its reputation and deserves larger endowments than it receives. There are ^{always} quite a number of English & American students there & now & then a Canadian. Just now there is a Mr Wood studying mineralogy & blow-piping there who is assistant to Prof. Chapman of Toronto. He came over here in the spring & returns next month. He and a Mr Biddle, a graduate of the Sheffield school at New Haven but whose home is Philadelphia, spent two evenings with me at my hotel & seemed glad enough to meet anyone from across the Atlantic. They also went with me to see the gigantic smelting works about two miles from Freiberg.

The chemical laboratories under Prof. Winkler though small are very convenient and pleased me much. There was one solitary female from the United States studying there, but she has, I believe, a room to herself. Prof. Winkler was very anxious to introduce me to her, but I declined with thanks. Winkler could not speak one word of English, so that I had to mutter all the German which I could. He introduced me to Weisbach the prof of mineralogy and I at once asked him if he could speak ~~to~~ English, to which he replied "Nein, aber sprache ich. Dental sch gut." He is a very jolly man with a neigh like a Clyde horse.

From Freiberg I went to Heidelberg stopping on the way for a few hours at

Würzburg which is really a charming town. The parks seem almost endless and one can walk for miles along beautifully shaded walks, or if he gets tired can sit on one of the seats which are everywhere to be seen in the corners & shade of places.

The parks are the resort of innumerable nurses and babies - I never saw them growing so thickly anywhere else unless in the baby-yard at the Mill.

As a rule neither the German nurses nor the babies wear anything on their heads - the baby being protected from the sun by the cover of its carriage or by an umbrella if in the nurse's arms. Even in the cool of the evening you see quite young babies with nothing on their heads & often with their arms quite bare.

The nurses seem to be very fond of and very careful of their charges.

I reached Heidelberg on Wednesday evening the journey from Strassburg having been a very pleasant one and the scenery part of the way having been well worth seeing. It was too late to get a peep of the castle, but next morning I would have gone very far to see it and spent the morning there. So much had I heard of Heidelberg castle that I expected to be disappointed, - there are so many things that one hears about - that are disappointing when seen - but no - disappointment was here impossible. It is the finest old building that I have anywhere seen or expect to see.

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And then the surroundings are so
grand & beautiful. Possibly the building
is more striking as a ruin than it
would have been if preserved entire,
but one cannot help feeling exasperated
at Count Melac who blew up the
fortifications & burned down the
palace. He, however, was only the
servant of Louis XIV, who is responsible
for the ruin of many a German
castle.

I remained all morning at the castle
& then returned to the hotel for dinner the
table d'hôte being at 10 o'clock. Next to me
at dinner sat a gentleman who proved
to be very pleasant - a Dr. Karl Miillen-
hoff who now lives in Berlin though
a native of Switzerland. He had worked
for two years in the chemical laboratory
at Heidelberg under Bunsen & on
hearing that I wished to see it offered
to be my guide there. His wife was
with him, but their 3 children they
had left at home in Berlin.

After visiting the laboratory I called
upon Prof. Rosenbusch who invited
me to spend the next morning with
him. I then went again to the
castle and wandered about through
all sorts of underground passages, through
the gigantic moat & then through the
adjoining gardens where a band was
playing. The next morning I spent with

Prof. Roseburch who showed me
his very interesting collection of minerals
& rocks and the rooms in which
his students work. At dinner I
met two gentlemen from Bangor in
North Wales - one of them Secretary
of the college there which I may
possibly visit before sailing from
Singapore.

After dinner I left for Triberg in
the Black Forest where there is a
celebrated waterfall. Both before
reaching & after leaving Triberg
the scenery was very grand and
it is marvellous how they ever
built a railway through such
a country. There certainly was a
deal of burrowing for we passed
through no end of tunnels. When
I reached the Schwarzwald
hotel at Triberg it was dark, but
it happened to be one of the eve-
nings on which the falls are
illuminated by electric light.
As soon therefore as I had satisfied
the cravings of hunger, which were
very strong, I sauntered out and
was well repaid for sauntering. The

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water fall is not great in so far as volume of water is concerned, but is well worth a visit. There is really a series of falls with an aggregate height of no less than 426 feet, and by following the caputit path on one side, ~~or~~ a great variety of views may be obtained. In the morning I paid the fall another visit and then left for Bieffhausen to see the falls of the Rhine.

I had as you heard that these were so insignificant as compared with our waterfalls in Canada that I did not expect much; but here again, as in the case of Heidelberg,

I was most agreeably surprised. Where I had seen the Rhine lower down it was so very dirty & brown, but here it was clear & of a lovely bluish green colour - bluer than any water which I had ever seen.

The fall is of course not so high, but still is very picturesque; the ~~old~~ old castle on one bank and the bridge just above the fall adding to the picturesqueness, while a lot of buildings on the bank opposite the castle are

very ugly and irritate me beyond
measure. One wishes that the
#ranch or the firm or anyone
would show them up. After having
a good look at the falls from all
points of view I came on to Zurich
where I now am & where I
shall probably remain until Tues-
day morning in order that I may
have ~~of good~~ time enough to see
the polytechnic Institute. Tuesday
I hope to go to Lucerne by way of
the Rigi and then to go on to Geneva
by way of Interlaken. At Geneva I
look forward to getting letters again.

Your last letter I got on Monday
at Friburg and was I can tell you
made most happy by it. It was such
a nice long one telling me so much
of what you are doing at Metz and
making me long to be with you.
My next letter will probably tell you
when to expect me as I hope to get
particulars about steams when I reach
Geneva. When one is travelling so rapidly
as I have been it is very hard to get
a chance to write letters & I have not
written a word since so much as I should
like to. Nor have I written to Laura for
some time and I should like too to write

more to the children, but really
find it impossible. I expect to
find them all changed, especially
Ruth & Martin Conrad. Give
them all my fond love and
believe me as ever
Your loving Bernard.

P.S. I shall attend to the ring when I get
to London.

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