

McGILL UNIVERSITY
 ARCHIVES
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Hotel Alexandra, Loen, Nordfjord

Herrliche Lage am Fjord, umgeben von mächtigen gletschergekrönten Bergen.
 Bester Ausgangspunkt für Ausflüge nach dem berühmten Jostedalstræ, dem grössten Gletscher Europas.
 Lachs- und Forellen-Fischerei im Loen Fluss und in dem Loen-See.
 Gute Betten - Ausgezeichnete Küche - Aufmerksame Bedienung - Mässige Preise.

Have just received
 a packet of letters from
 my dear friends in
 N. Y. I am very glad to hear
 from you all. I hope
 you are all well. I
 shall be glad to hear from
 you again. I am
 ever your affectionate
 friend
 B.

Shred fit
 in to page 105
 just before
 Jeff Balholm
 Aug 9th

Aug. 3rd 1903

Dearest Anna,

This is our first really wet day since we came to Norway. We intended to go on to a place called Olden where there is another fine glacier, but have decided to remain where we are until to-morrow, as the mountains are enveloped in clouds and the glacier would be invisible. This is indeed a marvellous country for scenery. Since we left Balholm on Thursday we have had a constant succession of mountain, lake and fjord, the views, however, being most varied in character, and surprising greeting you at every turn. There is no country in the world, I believe, where one can so easily see what is to be seen. All the main roads are government roads and are kept in perfect condition. As yet I have not seen one genuine rut, but possibly some of them will be encountered further north. The Norwegians are masters of road-building and understand thoroughly the use of stone for purposes of construction without mortar or cement of any kind. How they handle some of the large stones which one sees in walls, piers, etc., I do not know; for they seem to have little in the way of tackle. They think nothing too of starting down the wrong side of a hill if they want to carry a road round it.

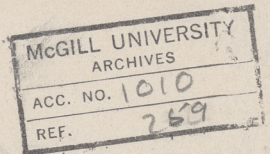
In the country which we have seen there has been practically no flat land and most of the farms are as such an angle that I should think they would have

to be careful when digging potatoes lest they (the potatoes I mean) should roll down into the fjords. It is marvellous how they cultivate little patches in all kinds of apparently inaccessible places. The farmers generally have stout wires stretched from points high up on the hills down to the valleys and lower wood, hay, milk cans, &c., down these. This plan enables them to cultivate spots which would be quite inaccessible to roads. Still there must often be a terrible struggle for existence and many of the people are evidently very poor and live in wretched hovels. When we have been dining the last few days, there have been many people with dark hair and eyes and smaller stature than we had previously observed. While the people are poor they are also proud and we have not seen a beggar since our arrival in the country. Their trustfulness of strangers too is very striking and arises no doubt from their own sense of honour. I am told that all over the country they will accept cheques in payment of accounts from people of whom they know absolutely nothing. They seem too to be very considerate of the feelings of others and in the hotel at Balholm the following notice was posted. "Please in going upstairs and in closing doors to remember those who wish to ~~rest~~ rest." The notices were in English only, from which it may probably be inferred that English people were the ones who forgot that other people wished for rest. In all the hotel bedrooms there are very full instructions printed - generally in three or four languages - as to what should be done in case of fire.

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In the hotel where we slept some one had written at the bottom of one of these notices - "In case of fire jump out of the window and throw to the right. One man turned to the left and was frozen to death."

We have not received any letters since we left England but hope to get some before long. Hope was to forward letters in care of Thos. Bennett & Son of Bergen who know where we expect to be at certain dates. Our most northerly point will be Molde, on the coast, said to be the most ~~now~~ beautifully situated town in Norway. It is a small place, however, - less than 2000 inhabitants. After that we expect to drive across the country for three days to catch the railway for Christiania where we are due on the 12th. We enjoy the driving, and would enjoy it more were it not for the dust. The ponies and the drivers also (^{as with} ~~like~~ the French Canadians) like to travel in processions, and unless you happen to be in the front car you have to take the dust. We try to start before others or some time after them; but if we happen to get into the procession I keep saying to the driver "For megget Støer" - too much dust, and he generally "slows up" for a while. There are all kinds of rules of the road here and you are not allowed to pass anyone ahead

of you without the permission of the driver (i.e. the driver in the vehicle in front). This does away with the racing so common with us and which would be exceedingly dangerous on the steep mountain roads.

Norway is getting more & more overrun by German tourists especially since the German Emperor has made an annual trip to the country. They are very noisy and one becomes very tired of their continuous/guttural jabber. Occasionally I attempt a little conversation with them and they always seem pleased as English people rarely speak German. As for the English tourist he has learned many lessons and improved vastly of late years. He usually now tries to make himself agreeable and one rarely hears the old-fashioned bluster. We have met numbers of pleasant English people and a few Americans — among the latter a Dr. and Mrs Clark of Philadelphia who know the Oslos well and are also great friends of the gardeners. They travel by a different route from ourselves, but we expect to meet them again at Trondheim on Saturday or Sunday. A Mr & Mrs von Braum we have seen a good deal of. They live in London, but he is a Swede, she English. Then a Mr. Angell, an American who lives in London, has been very kind about giving us hints as to places to see. I fancy he is an engineer.

Conrad makes many friends everywhere and I hear him give some wonderful accounts of his native land. We always take a double room as it would be much more troublesome for me to get him up in the morning if we were in separate apartments. He has been annoyed a good deal of late by a wisdom tooth which is trying to come through. It does not, however, seem to seriously affect his appetite or to prevent him from sleeping at night. I am glad to say that I have had scarcely any neuralgia since I came to Norway. I must close this now as we are going for a walk.

Love & well from Trondheim even Bernard.