

INCOLL. COLL. ARCHIVES  
ACC. NO. 1421  
REF. 31/1

Frankfort.

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1841.

My dear Bennie,

I'm sure you will be surprised to get a letter written from Frankfort but this is to be our resting place over Sunday on our way to Dresden, and though I am tired & sleepy, (consequently stupid) I must begin to tell you what I have seen since leaving Paris though we have done it all so quickly that my recollections are rather confused. First however I must thank you for your last ever long letter. I know you must find it hard to take the time, when you have so much to do but the effort you must make is fully appreciated. The next time you do better write on these papers for it makes a difference now that we are in the continent. I hope nothing will prevent your going home with Maria all Christmas & that you will all have a Merry time, I wonder what I'll do, think of you all for one thing & do as the Germans do for another. It seems very funny to be where I do not understand a word of what is said, though French holds good almost everywhere and in that way you get along & a good many of the Germans speak a little English. They are very different as a nation from the French more intelligent in looks & so phlegmatic compared to the impulsive Parisians. But now I must go back to our journey and tell how at the unearthly hour of half past six in the morning we left Paris by train for Cologne. It was extremely cold and a little snow had fallen during the night - and as we went on we found more & more white covering so that things

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Cologne till long after dark, very cold and  
very hungry, so that our Luxembourg quarters  
at the Hotel Dieck were thoroughly appreciated.  
We had not seen seated many ~~whisky~~ at  
our tea when a man with a case de Cologne  
dove up in various shaped bottles, arrived  
and tried to get rid of him bought some.  
My first experience of sleeping under a  
feather (or rather eider down) bed took place  
here, and I can tell you tis a grand institution.  
There were not many bed clothes but an  
immense square pillow covered you all  
over. The case was made of red stuff with  
white lace <sup>on top</sup> and full of lace  
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these feathers. But tis so comfortable, warm  
as toast & yet no weight - Capital for a sick  
person I should think - The next thing that am-  
used me was the dinner next day - we dined at the  
"Table d'Hotel" which in Germany seems to be at  
12 o'clock instead of at night - & I think we were  
the only English speaking people present - They  
had a great many courses & everything tasted  
good, except a very tender goose which was stuff-  
ed with Chestnuts, which I don't like; with  
it we had stewed prunes instead of Apple  
sauce & boiled celery, roots & all - & brussels sprouts  
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intervals along the table were placed in little  
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It is said that Cologne is a dirty town but  
good - I was covered up & destroyed all  
impurities so I didn't require to use any  
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which was begun as early as the thirteenth  
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large and very beautiful, the stained glass windows being finer than any I have seen unless at the Sainte Chapelle in Paris. However it was so bitterly cold that I did not enjoy it. After getting a little warmed we walked to La Strée where stands the house in which Rubens the painter was born & where Marie de Medicee wife of Henry IV died. 'Tis a plain three story house, with a very large door, almost like a gateway in the centre, and in the arch over this door carved in wood is a likeness of the painter, identical, I should say, with the one mamma did in coloured chalk the same wide a water hat etc etc. The rest of the day I amused myself by taking a sketch of an old church, & by seeing my windows, and at five we left C. for Bonn where Louisa expected to find her brother's friends, Carl Vogel & family. It was dark when we got there but before taking our things we started in search of them, have a man from the hotel who could give us little English as our guide. But he had been sent on a wild goose chase, for on leaving the house we were told that the Vogels had left Bonn, two years ago & were living at Coblenz. It was too bad, for we had given up Switzerland & come this way, as Fred expressed a wish to have Louisa see his old friends, however we had very comfortable quarters and I was really glad to see Bonn, which I'm sure is a lovely place in summer. I just caught a glimpse of the University buildings & saw some students walking about - there are 800 attending now, & the Chemical Laboratory is said to be one of the largest & best organized in the world. In the way to the station in the morning we drove past a fine bronze statue of Beethoven (which was inaugurated before Queen Victoria 1845 - In "Bonngasse" this celebrated Composer was born - but we did not have time to go past the house.

We left Bonn early in the morning and for the beautiful Rhine nearly all day. But it was so cold that the windows of the railway carriage were curtained by an impenetrably thick frost so that in order to see anything we were obliged to put on all our wraps and sit with the windows <sup>open</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>train</sup>. The track kept close to the <sup>right</sup> bank of the river, which was pretty well skinned over with ice, in some places thick enough for skating. The hills that rose on either side were covered with vines, brown and unightly now but giving one a slight idea of what the hillsides must be like in summer when the vineyards are in their glory, almost every summit <sup>was</sup> mounted by a grand old ruin giving such a picturesque touch to the scene - We halted for a few moments at a place called Newied, where the Moravians have an educational establishment - then on to Coblenz - Boppard, Barmesel, on down to Bingen, where on an island is the celebrated Minster where the cruel Archbishop Hatto of Mayence is said to have been devoured by mice - tis now a watch-tower - Still down, we came to Mayence where we crossed the river Rhine & followed the main till we came to Frankfurt where we remain till Monday - It looks like the place where I would like to live & is interesting in many ways - We have made the most of our time and seen as much as possible by driving about - There are several fine statues, one to Gutenberg another to Schiller and a third to Goethe for this is his birth place - The house where he was born and spent a good part of his life is open to visitors - we went through it and into the room where he wrote many of his earlier works - Then we drove through the "Judensasse" (Jews street) the dirtiest, darkest & most antiquated place you could imagine - Many Jews settled here in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century but their privileges were very limited - Gates at each end of their quarters prohibited them leaving them in the evening <sup>on</sup> Sunday & holidays & till 1806 they could not enter the "Hornberg" or market place, under severe penalty however the denizens of these dark passages & gloomy houses got rich, as all Jews will & from this very street came the great Rothschild family, the

King of Naples to the Crown Prince -  
This Prince was more of a student than  
a warrior and was a great friend  
of Humboldt's - together they often  
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simply, the Curtains etc being covered  
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I was much interested in all this, for  
Mr Jacobi had told me of his visits  
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you will think I saw enough for  
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The next day we devoted the morning  
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pieces of sculpture is very interesting  
and beautifully arranged, so except  
if I haven't seen to Italy, I have seen  
The Apollo Belvedere & the Laocoon  
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We went in the afternoon to the Aquarium  
which is a very good one, and saw  
many wonders of the deep - There is a  
nice gallery of modern pictures so we  
slept a long time there and after  
went by the "American Railway" or  
in other words "Horse Car" to Charlotten-  
burg where on the grounds of the  
Palace is a very handsome Mausoleum  
raised in memory of Frederick William  
III and his Consort Queen Louise  
it is built of rare marbles and  
granite & contains two monuments  
the work of Rauch - they are said to  
be very like the King & Queen, it is  
wonderful what a passion can be  
put in this cold white marble -  
We remained in Berlin till Friday  
P.M. - sight seeing most of the time &  
doing a little shopping for Mary &  
I committed the extravagance of  
getting a very pretty dress that we  
saw ready made & I needed something  
for the wedding, as my black silk  
would not do for such an occasion  
it is a silk & wool material of light  
colour trimmed with brown silk  
frills & makes me look quite stylish,  
though it is very lady like and will  
be nice for when I get home - Our  
hotel was very comfortable and the  
dinner very good - I enclose a  
bill of fare which I'm sure you will  
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had to masticate was not as jaw  
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scanned carriage in the railway  
carriage both going and coming.  
The first one had led a Californian  
life, was rather familiar, told us  
he wasn't married - was inquisitive  
& wanted to know what of who we were,  
guessed considerably and talked of  
"hiring a team" etc - but coming  
home we found our companion  
very entertaining and polite, but not  
at all officious - They were all very  
glad to get us back & for on the whole  
we are the liveliest of the party, though  
we call ourselves "meek & mild".  
This week we are going to Prague  
but not alone. In Miss Gill's agent &  
Anna accompany us - our trip will  
only occupy three days - We have  
had no letters from home this  
week, in consequence my effusion  
seems stopped, it is so much easier  
to write in answer to house news -  
perhaps however before I part this  
the budget will come.

26<sup>th</sup> No Budget has come so I must  
just be content to wait. I only hope  
nothing has happened to the steamer.  
It is pouring straight down, looks  
dark & damp & in consequence I  
have got a headache so you must  
mind a scribbled finale - I had  
a nice letter from Maria Beveridge  
in which she spoke of seeing you  
comfortably ensconced in sleigh boxes, one  
day in Notre Dame street - She wrote  
a remarkably cheerful letter, and I  
would not have thought that her eye-  
sight was bad, from the writing, the  
lines were all so even -

I wonder if you are still in Montreal  
and keeping well. I hope so. Give  
my love to all my dear friends  
if Miss "little Marda" for me and  
tell her to give you a real bear's  
hug from me. I despise her as  
my proxy. Louisa sends  
lots of love, it is funny that  
Mamma liked her photo  
& that you didn't. I think it  
good. Tell Corcellia I will  
write to her soon. I'm sorry  
to hear she is not feeling well  
tell her to take good care of her  
self. Mary Gale says to give you  
much love & thank you for your kind  
wishes & that just now she is  
reveling in bed. She is not feeling  
very well and is playing lazy.  
Give much love to all at  
home. Auntie Sarah & Uncle  
always & remember me to all  
my friends there. Excuse  
this horrible writing and with  
much love believe me as  
ever your loving  
Sister

"Potter".



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Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 1871.

My dear Genie,

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Give much love to all at  
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"Lotchen"



Letters for Germany written  
by Charlotte Harrington  
when on a trip with  
Louisa Nelson-

1871

Well written & interesting  
but are they worth  
keeping - ?

PORTRAIT  
BY

*Therdale*

LONGE ST.  
TORONTO

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1421
REF.	31/4

Harrington Letters

4-20-1875