

good all round letter of home life

Little Matis

July 16<sup>th</sup>

1885

Dearest Bernard,

This week I

received your note written just before you left England. You gave me no idea how long you intended to be on the Continent, perhaps you were generally uncertain. I am so glad you consent to Antwerp. I have always thought, should like to see it. Also hope that if you do not find Germany too fascinating, you will give as long as possible to Seville & Madrid. Paris is not worth more than a few days, for its sights, & of course to go in for its music or visit and require altogether too long. As like a wife, soul try not to hurry but to enjoy. I also take care you get plenty to eat, there is nothing more rarely got than milk, & have glasses of it on all occasions before long walks or tiresome hours of sitting. I see by the papers that Frank Hillier Seymour is dead.

Matis at this late date is still very first few people at Antwerp Hotel, no Indians, & some

quently very pleasant for those  
who are here - Papa has got his  
boat in order, & has been out  
once or twice with the young  
ones & Florence - We have a school  
twice a week, one day at mother's  
one at Mrs J. J. Redpath's, the  
bank, Parkman's new one & cap-  
ital it is - I have tried to sketch  
but really there is nothing near  
& I have not courage to go on  
long expeditions when likely to  
incure great farm part, the un-  
certainties of weather & no one  
but myself to guide the party,  
perhaps I may try some time  
but it is not at all the same  
as when you are here - I read a  
great deal to the young ones, but  
the whole family is getting by degrees  
quite ragged, I find so little time  
to sew, letter writing really is a  
business - Mrs. Ineson has told  
me she expects me to keep her in  
formed of how you get on, & I  
often feel uncertain whether I  
ought not often to write to Laura  
will you please say when you  
have written to H. A. & then I need  
not - I fear Hankins will be  
greatly disappointed at not seeing  
you, he wrote from Berlin express-  
ing such pleasure in the  
prospect of meeting you, I almost  
think he might have come to the Con-

tenent - if you were at any near  
point while he is in England.  
Do you propose to be long in London  
on your way back? - I fancy we  
will have to go to St. A. this fall  
your father was so sorry we <sup>could</sup>  
not go in spring - if so - if it could be  
managed I wd much prefer to go  
either direct - from here or at least  
after a day in town before getting  
new servants, I wd not like to  
have strangers in our house, & it  
is no use paying them & feeding  
them while the family is away.  
Have you any idea as to whether  
you will come here en route, or not  
I only suggest these points, but wd  
like clear if, so soon as you see your  
way at all clearly you wd let me  
know - as I wd not like to leave  
here hurriedly.

Mr. Bony has been quite ill  
too much since I fancy, & still  
looks shaky. we have Dr. Gerald as  
medical adviser for Mattie & he has  
been attending him - Mr. Hunt  
who is supposed fast - being still  
here, but goes up tomorrow. I think

a fine halibut - was caught  
by one of the Astles today & we  
have secured a piece, wh. we  
expect to enjoy tomorrow. Straw-  
berries are exceedingly abundant,  
& I have today been eating some  
procured - but plenty more is still

required. The beans are not  
yet ready in the garden - but they  
promise well as do the peas, we  
have twice had spinach, & will  
<sup>have enough for</sup> once more I fancy, the lettuce  
has been sent to every one in  
Melis & the radishes ditto, I don't  
think half a dozen are left in the  
bed, the pansies too, have been  
unusually abundant & fine in  
colour, I am about to dress them  
with guano water - wh. I hope  
will increase their size & open  
sooner - you need not expect to  
see a baby when you return I  
expect "Bessie" will be whitening  
sticks, at turning corners & by  
the autumn, he did climb up  
by the bath tub, yesterday &  
then tumble himself in head  
first, & when taken out he  
did not seem much overcome  
or hurt - he sleeps very well at  
night - I have faith I will believe  
the right place for a young one is  
beside its mother not in a lonely  
crib he has none of that excor-  
iating nervous wakefulness the  
others had, except between tea &  
bed time, once I lie down beside  
him he is happy & he often gets  
only one drink between 6 P. M. &  
early morning - wh. is more than  
could be affirmed of any of the others  
at 8 months -

As for me I am growing stouter  
every week - it really begins to  
annoy me - & I dare not trust in  
baby's account - if I therefore  
subsist on we become milk for  
him, I wd give up eating al-  
together for a week or so - all my  
garments are uncomfortably  
tight, & really there seems no  
happy future when I may be thin  
once baby is weaned I shall  
"hunt" vigorously, & vigorously -

Flora is looking better &  
handsomer than ever before she is  
positively beautiful at times,  
but her prospects are becoming  
evanescent, & she studies computer  
to a degree that renders her condition  
more easily seen than meet by  
& how she will appear by Dec-  
- it is difficult to prophesy - I am  
to be at the Saugers tonight - Had  
hoped to write more to you, I also to  
Kankine & Georg & Laura - but  
must postpone -

10. P. M.

Have just got home -  
All Gustis has been on the "spree"  
tonight Mother had a party, old  
Mr. Lenn & I were at the Saugers  
& Mrs J. J. H. had a fine bonfire  
for the birthday of one of her boys  
Eric was there - & I have just  
brought him home - I found quite

a party enjoying coffee & cake &  
mottos all of which Eric  
got a hair mustache!!! & were  
hit with much admiration. I  
believe the fire was a grand  
success but I did not see it

The summer is going by fast  
already we are half through July  
& again dearest let me urge you  
to in every way care for your  
own welfare for all our sakes

When in Paris had you not  
better get some gloves at the Bon  
Marché cheaper & better than  
anywhere else if you do you  
might get me a pair of brogue  
coloured silk is a brown colour  
to green if I can get a patch of  
the dress I might send it - but  
don't trouble unless on your own  
account. - I have the Assurance  
ticket - & am very glad to have  
your discretion 10<sup>0</sup> to the  
casualty ward of the world  
pray don't try to economize by  
debating yourself even for the  
£2-10<sup>0</sup> & week -

Lovingly dear

Your Anne