

I. J. Another draws
My love to be sent to her
Very best & sincerest good
wishes for the New Year
Papa do, do, also best
thanks for the bunch
which we all enjoyed
Muchly -

Grand Hotel
Friday
P. P. S. As we think you will
be at Rock Ferry when this
reaches you, I send enclosure
for Edith - Monday write please
give her
L.D.

Mother received your pleasant
letter last Wednesday for which she
bids me to thank you - we all enjoyed
it very much & were rather amused
to learn that you had been three
times at Mrs Smyth's - I have no doubt
you will have a large circle of friends
in London before we return & that you
will be introducing us right & left to
the end of distinguished residents -
But let me say that old Mrs Carpenter
of Regent Park is very well indeed although

Somewhat archaic & besides & moreover
 she is intimate with very many leading
 people, of course principally scientific.
 Have you seen the Gladstones yet?
 & what of the Macdonalds of B. C.?
 We have been enjoying Italy very
 much although we still are rather
 disappointed not to find it warmer.
 Here & in Rome it is pleasant while
 the sun shines but very chilly in
 the evenings & the wind too is quite
 sharp. They say it is unusually cold
 for the season. But we have not
 had any rain, & that is a very
 great comfort. Rome was most
 interesting but we have seen so much
 here since then that I feel that it
 is quite an old story. We arrived
 here last Monday & spent what

time we had in driving about the town & along a road that is high up & has a beautiful view. The after glow after the sun has set, was very bright red & one of the most beautiful & curious sights we have seen.

Last day we spent in Umanias & enjoyed it very much although it did not seem much like home & ones friends. There is a railway now up to the top of Umanias but it is but a short one at the steepest part & we drove for at least two & a half hours before we came to it. The road winds & winds & there are most beautiful views it shows over Hapies & the bay. The railway is almost perpendicular & the winds was so strong up there that

Every moment I expected to find that
 the cars all were flying off skywards.
 The car had no sides so we had the full
 benefit of the wind & it was so cold too.
 But this did not last very long &
 after a short steep climb on foot we
 reached the top. Here the ground or rock
 is riddled with holes, larger & smaller
 the largest the central crater, from which
 smoke & steam & sulphur fumes came.
 The ground was quite warm, hot in
 places & all yellow with sulphur -
 Every now & again some fresh hot
 blocks of lava were thrown up some
 fell quite near us. It was altogether
 very like Toré's pictures of the Inferno
 & we did not stay there very long.
 But it was a very interesting expedition
 & Papa got a lot of specimens which
 pleased him greatly. The next day

we spent at Pompeii also a most
 interesting place - Thursday we spent at
 the Aquarium & its going about the city -
 & today at the great Neapolitan
 Museum & another drive - I heard
 told most horrible stories as to the
 depravity of the natives here - Their
 chief end in life apparently is to cheat one
 another & especially get everything possible
 out of strangers - There is no fixed price here
 for anything & one is supposed to offer
 about half what is asked - In going to
 Pompeii a rather seedy looking man got
 into the compartment - Travelling first
 class in order to try to victimise some
 wealthy traveller - He had tortoise^{shell}
 Combs which he wanted 4 francs each
 for - I did not care for any so I refused

us to purchase he offered two for 5 frks. just as an experiment. Another said she wd give four - Next one acceded to this & we then felt we had given too much do to further test him we said we wd give one frank for more for another Comb. This too he at once did & had we had time I think we might have got another for half a frank - It really is a most ridiculous mode of selling things & in the shops it is the same. But this I suppose will be a good training for Egypt which I believe is even worse.

But I must close now for it is dinner time. We intend to leave for Egypt to morrow morning & will be four days, more or less at sea - We got home letters yesterday. They all seem well & happy there. Poor Miss Mackay - Gordon is dead. He's left no will we hear - If you are with the Cross please give the girls my love & with best love
 Give a very happy & prosperous New Year Yours Ever,