

May 25th 1877.

William B. D

My dear Father,

I received your telegram on Wednesday when I called at the School. I do not quite remember which of my letters it is in answer to, as my plans have been modified several times; but I understand your meaning. It does not seem to me at all likely that the Senate will vote the dissolution of the House from what I see in the papers here. What is most to be feared is that the President may be led to some unconstitutional act in order to carry out his program, as he has already run so near the limits of what the Constitution allows him

As the "Times" says, he will probably find himself eventually in such a position as to have to choose between a "coup d'état" and or resigning. The Parliament must meet again on the 16th June, and it will then require considerable tact to prevent a vote of want of confidence from being passed; but the President will probably be able to repeat what he has already done & prorogue the House. On the 16th July the Senate must vote dissolution if the new ministry are to remain in power without violating the Constitution. This would give them three months longer, as an extreme limit.

A declaration of war must be voted by the House. Italy is the country that most bears the present state of affairs, as the clergy have been doing their utmost during the past few months to stir up France against it; and now the Marshall seems to have acted at their instigation, so far as one can judge. However, the French would find it much easier, and more

ably to their taste to upset the President
than to march across the Alps.

The French are certainly remarkable for the way in which they remember
dates. The papers continually refer to
and them without the least explanation, &
to use such expressions as the Ministry of the
from 15th June or whatever it may be. This will
probably be known as the Ministry of the 16th May,
& will probably receive no other name.
16th They even call their streets after the
if days of the month. One of them is the
lower "29th of July Street", and another handsome
This wide street leading to the Opera has been
as called "Boulevard 4 Septembre."

I am still intending to leave on
Tuesday. I am expecting to receive ^{tomorrow, an} ~~very~~ an-
swer to my request to go upon a mission.
I will also arrange my money matters
tomorrow, which I can tell you of this
mail. Our classing was posted this
afternoon. I also enclose the results of
the exam: on Steam Engines which was
far certainly very different from what I
expected. It always seems to me the
Professors make too much allowance for
my not speaking very fluently.

Yesterday Dorius and I went to
Versailles together ~~in~~ honour of the Queen's
birthday. He consented to be a Royalist
for the day; and we thought it more
prudent to celebrate the day in that
way, than to be locked up for a month
for setting off fire-works in the streets.
We saw the best parts of the historical
collection of paintings, which are very
interesting. The gardens are very fine
indeed.

With love to all, believe me,

Your affectionate son

William.

P.S. As I have no agency at Nancy
I drew £ 25 - 0 - 0 on Saturday. If I need
any more I can get it by sending a
cheque in a registered letter.

My drafts this winter are:—

Dec. 27	£ 10 - 0 - 0
Jan. -	20 - 0 - 0
March 27	20 - 0 - 0
May 26	25 - 0 - 0
<u>Total</u>	<u>75 - 0 - 0</u>

on a credit of £ 200. It seems that the
credit ~~is~~ expires in July, (about the 20th)

W.B.D.

Machines à vapeur

Abro	7
Dawson	17
Kramer	8
Lemaire	10
Margosoff	10
Mironesco	16
Switkowski	12.

General results.

Dawson	2580
Mironesco	2459
Switkowski	2451
Margosoff	2129
Lemaire	2025
Abro	1967

Kramer { same with
 } supplementals.