

1883

Acc. 1377

Steamer La Seine
Mediterranean Sea
Jan'y 1/83

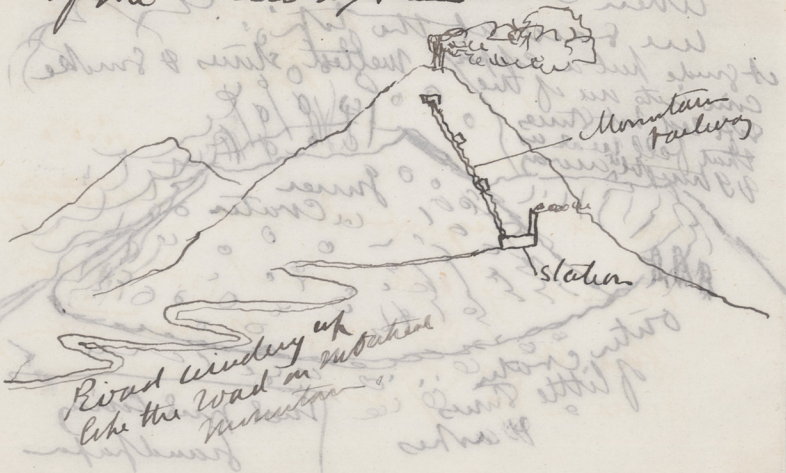
Dear Eric,

I have not written a
letter to you a week since
I left and therefore I write
a few short ones now to
wish you all a happy New
Year; as this is New-Year's
day, and we are on a
steamer sailing across the
Mediterranean from Italy to
Egypt, and so cannot get
a line any parents. I
hope you & Edith & Alice

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Got Mary's good ones on
Christmas day. Please
thank Edith for the
nice little letter she
sent me and which
I received in Naples.
Speaking of Naples re-
minds me that we
went up Mt Vesuvius
on a very curious railway,
running up and down
the side of the mountain,
which is quite as steep

at the side of a house. It did
not go quite to the top, because
it is a volcano and sends
out puffs of steam and red
hot stones and sometimes
streams of melted rock called
lava. This is a rough picture
of the railway:—



There is no locomotive, but a big engine at the bottom which pulls up one car by a long wire rope, and there is always another car running down. The ~~cars~~ ^{cars} run on one rail each, like a man riding on a horseback. I shall show you a photograph of the cars when I come home. This is what we saw at the top.

A guide put a copper coin into one of the soft red hot stones that fell near us & it melted away.

Melted stones & smoke

