

(G. P. C.)

86 Boulevard de Port Royal

Tuesday Nov. 21, '76.

My dear Father,

I enclose the reply of the Minister of Public works, as posted in the School. We are not altogether satisfied with his decision, as it gives us ~~not~~ no title, and although called a diploma, is not really more than a certificate. As to the "particularly distinguished" we will see what that means at the end of this session. It is probably only a reservation, <sup>in order</sup> so that the authorities may not be pledged to give it to all the élèves; for it is very seldom that any of them are stopped in the last year.

The Cours Préparatoire has proved quite a success. Sixteen 'Elevés Externes' entered this year, eleven of them being from the Preparatory class. Delaroy who was with us last year has remained in the first year; leaving only five who have entered directly.

I have not yet been to Gil's as I have enough money to last to the end of the year. I have arranged with M<sup>me</sup> de Spudel to let me have the room I now occupy for 35 francs a month, as Audouin had it at that price last year; and I have agreed to remain there both this winter & next. I paid 40<sup>f</sup> last winter, and am very well satisfied with the arrangement I have made, as it is very much pleasanter to have a permanent address, & moving is always troublesome. The flat that Dorian & I are on is meant for a small fam-ly.



ed ily, & has a kitchen besides the bedrooms.  
es This we have for keeping our fuel in. There  
from is also a small room that was supposed to  
s go with the bed-room I had last year, where  
te we can put our trunks. These are conveniences  
en which one would not meet with every where.

I find the stove in my room a very good one  
I & more serviceable than an open fire-place;  
of which amounts to saying that it is more ec-  
de nomical. There are a couple of little gratings  
ow near the top from which hot air issues,  
down which I suppose comes from outside; and  
have the draft must ventilate the room quite  
as well as in the case of an open fire-place.

Herbert & M<sup>rs</sup> Reddy are now  
in Paris. They arrived on Sunday morn-  
ing, & M<sup>rs</sup> R. leaves this morning  
is at 11 P. for Cannes, a town on the  
rian Mediterranean east of Marseilles where  
fam. she is to spend the winter.

She is going in company with a Mrs  
Koss (I think) from Quebec, (who has a large  
house at Cacouna) & who is accompanied  
by Dick Macdonald. Herbert is staying  
a few days here before returning to London  
& I have asked him to come & see me  
this evening. We went to an English  
Methodist Church together on Sunday evening

The principal event of the week consists  
in my having invested in a Beaver hat.  
I went to a place Dorian recommended  
& got a really good one, for which I gave  
17.<sup>f</sup> (\$3.40) I do not wear it every  
day; but it is almost necessary to have  
one here for Sundays, & visits.

The papers here give very full ac-  
counts of the Eastern Question. Most of the  
telegrams are copied from English & German  
papers of the day before, & acknowledged to  
be so. Believe me

Your affectionate son  
William.



The following is the text of the reply of the Minister of Public Works to the request made last year by the *Élèves Extérieurs* to grant them a diploma instead of a certificate.

(Posted at the School this week.)

L'Inspecteur général, Directeur de l'École, porte à la connaissance de M. M. les *Élèves Extérieurs* la décision suivante prise par M. le Ministre des Travaux publics, le 24 Juillet, 1876.

Messieurs les *Élèves Extérieurs* de l'École des Ponts et Chaussées ont adressé à l'Administration de l'École une demande tendant à obtenir que le diplôme qui leur est délivré à leur sortie de l'École fut modifié de manière à faire ressortir leur aptitude à exercer la profession d'Ingénieur. Le Conseil de l'École a donné à cette demande une très sérieuse attention, et il lui a paru qu'un diplôme exceptionnel devait être conféré aux *Élèves Extérieurs* qui se seraient distingués d'une manière spéciale dans le cours de leurs études.

Cette question a été de ma part l'objet d'une sérieuse examen, et il m'a paru qu'il

Il avait lieu d'accueillir en principe la proposition du Conseil de l'École. J'ai décidé en conséquence que les Élèves externes qui se seront particulièrement distingués pendant le temps qu'ils auront passé à l'École recevront un diplôme d'ancien Élève externe de l'École des Ponts et Chaussées apte à exercer la profession d'Ingénieur.

Quant aux autres élèves ils continueront à recevoir comme aujourd'hui un certificat constatant qu'ils ont suivi les cours de l'École et ont satisfaits aux conditions réglementaires.

Messieurs, l'assurance de ma  
considération la plus distinguée.

Le Ministre des Travaux publics

Pour le Ministre et par autorisation

Le Conseiller d'Etat, Secrétaire Général

(Signé) de Bourneville.

Pour extrait conforme

L'Inspecteur de l'École

(signé)

L. Bommery



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