

Meina Oct 27. 82

My dear Mother,

I fear I have
missed a week's mail
in writing home, but having
written to William in the
interval, you will doubtless
have heard indirectly of
my continued existence. I find
in fact I have been nearly a
week in Vienna. I did not
mean to stay so long, but
being in a comfortable hotel
the time has passed fast.
I met a Scottish gentleman
in Prague who was en
route for Vienna & we

Came on here together. He
 was determined to get the
 utmost possible for his
 money even though doing so
 entailed considerable exertion,
 & the consequence has been
 that in his company I have
 seen about a score much
 more of Vienna than I
 otherwise should, numerous
 Churches numerous galleries
 &c. &c. all interesting, but
 as long as they were mentioned
 in the guide book he was
 determined to see them. He
 left this way early for Munich,
 & I have been taking a holiday

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today & trying to decide
where to go next. There are
always three or four ways
to go & it is very embarrassing
to know which to take. At
the present moment it
lies between Buda-Pesth,
Triest & Venice. I have
packed up & intend to
leave in the morning for one
or other, but it will require
a few hours deliberation
yet to determine which.
From Prague to here took
from 11 am to 7:30 P.M. by
an express train, which ran
fast, & stopped very seldom &

for short times. Of course we had to have something to eat, & this was managed in a way I have not seen before. When the Conductor came round to examine the railway tickets, he asked how many of the passengers wished dinner at 2 o'clock. Those who did so bought tickets from the Conductor, who then telegraphed on the number to the dinner station, & purchased a catch ticket showing the number of diners required, on the window of each compartment. At the dinner station waiters came round with each dinner on

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Separate plated tray, very
nicely arranged, soup,
wheat vegetables &c. a tray
of wine & another of water,
all so fixed to the tray,
that they could not slide off.
Next the Conductor came
down & enquired what
wanted to get, which
in turn was answered in
about an hour afterwards,
& the dinner trays at the
same time removed.
From here to Trieste or Venice
is 15 or 16 hours by railway,
but I don't think I shall stop

on the way, as I don't
 know of anything particular
 to see. Vienna is, as you
 may suppose a very fine
 city. I think was interesting
 than Berlin. Splendid
 streets, numerous museums,
 galleries & so on, & more
 coffee & places of recreation
 than in Berlin. The
 weather is also at present
 moderately fine & not
 cold, though the leaves are
 rapidly falling from the
 trees, & gardens & outdoors

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Exhibitions are within
great favour. I have
just written to Arthur
Crew to forward any letters
he may have to Staly, &
Jose when you write I state
to get a budget of some
news again soon. I
think I must go as far
as Naples before
turning back. Love to
all your affectionate son

George