



Grand Hotel,  
Brussels, March 30<sup>th</sup> 84.

My dear Anna -

We arrived here late last night & got an enormous bundle of letters. The accumulation of several weeks. It took us quite a time even to glance through them. I think we are fortunate to have escaped such an uncomfortable winter as you seem to have had. I like lots of snow but then to be deprived of sun shine in Canada is hard. But we are now firmly of opinion that cold is more easily borne & even enjoyable in Canada when everyone expects it. In Cairo the people are forbidden to have fireplaces & many of the poorer classes have only a cotton gown & turban for their whole winter wardrobe of clothes. The consequences are that when it is anything but hot they

are extremely miserable - The only way they can get warm is to close themselves into a small room with a charcoal pot. This warms them but also not infrequently suffocates them at the same time. Here in the north of Europe they have had a very unusually mild winter & they say the crops are further on now than <sup>they have been</sup> at same time of year for about fifty years back. Then it has been proportionately colder in the South & altogether we feel that the winter has put itself out quite unnecessarily this year - If it is for our benefit it seems a pity for we don't fully appreciate the attention I fear.

As you see we are now in Brussels & will very soon be back in London - We look upon England as quite near home & comparatively uninteresting after all we have seen - Indeed I fear that to travel much is not altogether improving for it makes me

become very critical. I find - One  
thought at Cologne, for example, that  
the Cathedral was quite wanting  
& poor in effect because the floor  
was made of plain stones & not  
beautifully inlaid with varied marbles  
as others we had seen. I fear  
George was quite right when he said  
that people only get demoralized by  
travelling about. But it has a great  
fascination for me & I should not  
at all mind starting off again &  
going over all the ground again.  
I really think that rich people  
as a rule don't get half the pleasure  
they might out of their money & feel  
quite competent now to expend any  
amount of wealth - I wish I could see you  
for one thing to see the admirable way  
in which the oriental mothers  
tie their babies into such tight  
bundles that they have no breath  
to cry - when they are unwrapped  
they cry all the time until they are

made into sandwiches again, so they  
are not entitled very often.

Our sail fr<sup>m</sup> Beyrout proved a very  
delightful one. We had lovely  
weather, sunshiny & calm & it  
was so pleasant to see all the  
interesting places we did, en  
route. Athens especially we  
enjoyed & we saw a great deal.  
Considering we had only a  
few hours on shore. Fortunately  
all the ruins of importance  
are close together. Then we  
c<sup>o</sup> of course see the general  
sight of the city & the beautiful  
hill around & the charming  
little harbour. But of all the  
places, the most attractive as  
far as simple beauty goes, I think  
we liked Corfu best. The climate  
is perfection & the trees & flowers &  
fruits are so fine. We took a  
long drive on shore. We also had  
some long talks with two girls who  
have lived in Corfu & who come on

board the steamer with us. They were quite foreign girls & c<sup>d</sup> speak half a dozen languages. They are grand-daughters of Bishop Heber's we found & nieces to the Dutches of Northumberland. 27 Castbourne Terrace London. You see we are once more in London & it seems almost like home in comparison to the more foreign places that we have been in. We got here on Tuesday night last having been detained some time at the Victoria Station while they were hunting through our luggage for dynamite & infernal machines. We have seen Kaurine several times & are now momentarily expecting a visit fr<sup>m</sup> the Crows who are now in London. We are as you see in the same lodgings as the Galts were in & so far we have found everything most comfortable. It seems so quiet & private too after our hotel

life. It is rather an old story now to  
go back to our journey to Venice  
where I at which point I think I left  
off my narrative. I fear you never  
will get a "Complete unvarnished  
tale" of us. It is often very difficult  
to know whether one has told you before  
of some experience or been forestalled  
by some other member of the trio.  
But I must say that we all enjoyed  
Venice very much - one has always  
heard so much about it that I expected  
to find it quite an old story. But there  
are always so many things in any  
place that one has never realized  
& has to see in order to understand.  
We stayed in Venice from Thursday  
until Monday morning March 24<sup>th</sup> -  
we got to Milan early in the same  
day & spent the afternoon at the  
Milan Cathedral. This is my  
second visit to Milan & I felt quite

at home. There & cd act as guide. On  
Tuesday we went across the St Gothard  
to Lucerne. We went by train for it was  
too early to go in a carriage. But they have  
extra sized windows & we enjoyed the  
grand mountains very much.  
When we got out of the tunnel at the  
Swiss end all the trees were covered  
with hoar-frost & looked lovely in the  
sun. All Wednesday we spent at  
Lucerne & in sailing about the lake.  
Thursday we went to Mayance.  
Friday we spent in sailing down the  
Rhine to Cologne. Saturday Mother  
& I spent at Cologne in visiting the  
Cathedral & the eleven thousand  
lms of Virgins (this latter we found  
a fraud) & Papa went to Rome to  
arrange about some stones for the  
Museum. We went on the same  
evening to Brussels. This is a very  
hasty resumé of our travels but

must suffice for the present. Mother  
says to tell you that she wrote so  
hurriedly fr. Brussels that she fears she  
was almost rude in not answering  
all your questions & kind inquiries. =  
Papa also desires me to send to Eric  
his best thanks for his epistles. We  
did not go into "the insides" of the Pyramid  
for to do so one must crawl on hands &  
knees which is not pleasant & besides  
there is nothing of interest to see.  
As to servants we will really have to let  
you decide for us. I feel sure that Ellen &  
Joan w<sup>d</sup>. find it difficult to agree for long.  
We are counting on having Ellen back  
& w<sup>d</sup>. rather pay her for one beginning of  
July than lose her for August. She  
might either help Florence if wanted or  
take a holiday. Another thing is that  
while at Brussels we bought along  
with some other things a lace handkerchief  
costing 11 francs = \$2.20 This is very cheap &



it was just a chance that we got it.  
We intend to send it out to you per  
post & you can keep it for yourself if you  
wish to. But the reason we send it  
now is that we thought you might  
give it as your present to Eleanor.  
It is perhaps better to give her a  
personal thing as she will not have  
a house of her own. I will try to send it  
this week or if not next. Let me  
know if it arrives all safe & if you  
like it. We have received your  
lists but have not as yet done  
anything towards getting things.  
Everyone here is in mourning for the  
Prince & we have only dashed out to  
Whilleys yesterday to purchase black  
gloves. It is rather ridiculous I  
think but one feels like a goth to  
go in colours when everything is in  
black. This has been a most frequent

interrupted epistle & I fear very  
fragmentary. The Crows have called  
& they say we look much fatter  
better than last Autumn.  
Alice Crow is coming out to Canada  
next summer - To spend the summer  
in Nova Scotia & September with  
us. A four months visit in all.

I must positively close now with  
love as usual from

Your affectionate sister

L. A.