

Cologne, Germany
July 12th 1885

Dear Anna,

It is indeed a long time since I have heard from you, or from any one on the water. I thought I would get letters while in Bonn, but none came, and now I do not expect to receive any until I get to Freiberg (in Saxony). As I expected to do when last I wrote I went from Cologne to Bonn on the 6th of this month and remained there for four or five days. A good deal of my time was taken up with business matters, buying chemical apparatus, minerals & rocks, and a difficult sort of business this is when you have very little money to spend and yet want to get a great many things. It is astonishing how few minerals one can buy with ~~to~~ \$100 - the amount which I had to spend for the museum. I have, however, got a few things which will be very useful.

Bonn, as you know, is a university town with only about 30,000 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated on the Rhine and has some good streets and fine residences. Most of the streets, however, are narrow and pretty well filled up

2

with the villainous odours which seem to thrive in so many of these Continental towns. A sensitive nose is a troublesome appendage in such places. While at Bonn, Prof. von Sarsault (a well known mineralogist & petrologist) and Dr Carl Hintze, a very clever mineralogist & Privat-docent in the University were very kind to me, and Prof. Sarsault went with me on an excursion to the Siebengebirge or Seven mountains which consist of interesting volcanic rocks some of which will before long be on their way to Canada. We went to the top of the Drachenfels, not as geologists ought to have gone - on foot - but as vulgar tourists go, by a Rigi-like railway which was built a year or two ago and mounts nearly to the top of the rock. Eric would have enjoyed this method of climbing I am sure! We were accompanied by a Mr Hubbard, an American from Boston, who has been studying ~~hard~~ at Bonn for two years and expects to remain for two years longer. He has his wife and three children with him and is keeping home. Is he not to be envied? I should be satisfied - at least I think

I should - if I could spend one winter
in Germany with my wife & children.

Perhaps, dear, we may yet be able to
do it. While at Bonn I stayed at
the Rheineck Hotel close to the water's
edge. It was not one of the expensive
houses, but still was comfortable
enough and pleasantly situated. ~~From~~
From my room I had a charming
view of the Rhine and of the
Siebengebirge. At the hotel was a
retired English officer who made
himself very agreeable and lent me
his London papers every day. He
seems to live most of the time on
the Continent with his wife and
daughter, and in fact I think his
wife must be German, although
she speaks very good English.

From Bonn I went up the Rhine
by steamer as far as Mayence,
returning the same way on the
following day. The weather has been
hot for some time past, so that it
was very pleasant to be upon the
water where we had a constant breeze.
This trip on the Rhine I enjoyed
exceedingly - everything was so new
to me, and so much of the scenery
was so fine. The quaint churches
and houses and the grand old
towers and castles delighted me

much, and I was⁴ very glad to go over
the same ground, or rather over the
same water twice. As for the
vineyards I do not see anything
remarkably beautiful in them - in
fact they do not look as well
as our fields of Indian corn
and many of the hills would be
puttin without them. The
Rhine itself is more of a river than
I thought it was, but I did not
expect to find the water so wretchedly
muddy. If they would only run
it through a filter here and
there it would present a much
better appearance than it does.

Historically the Rhine is intensely
interesting and I wish I knew more
of the many curious dramas &
tragedies which have been
enacted on its banks. When
one sees the grand old castles &
reads of their history he almost
wishes that he had lived in the
days when castles were built for
more practical purposes than for
displaying the wealth of the proprietor

5 Berlin, July 15/88

My last sheet was written at Cologne to which place I returned before quitting the Rhine. On Monday morning at 8.30 I left Cologne & came straight through to Berlin, a railway journey of 12 hours. It was hot & dusty & the country was flat and not particularly interesting, though very well cultivated. My travelling companions were far from charming, being an old German Jew who lives in Newcastle, and his daughter who lives in Liverpool. They both sported plenty of diamonds, though I doubt not they sell ~~plenty~~ old clothes when at home.

I am staying at a very large and grand hotel which, however, does not seem to be any more expensive than many of the smaller ones. There is a beautiful central court with palms, orange trees & all kinds of tropical vegetation, and here a concert is given

by a capital orchestra every morning at 8 o'clock while breakfast is going on. I never before had an opportunity of beginning the day in this way, but is certainly enjoyable.

Altogether these Germans are a curious people - so well informed, in some respects so polite, in others so boorish. They are, however, a rapidly advancing nation and on every hand one sees evidences of rapid progress. And yet the people live in a very easy-going way and seem to enjoy themselves perpetually.

This is a grand city and there are endless things to be seen, but I do not intend to see one-tenth of them; for the weather is hot and constant right-seeing is as wearisome to the flesh as well as to the mind. Yesterday I went to the University and while poking

about looking for the mineral
collections stumbled upon the
Professor of Mineralogy - Prof.
Witbsky. When I told him what
I wanted he went with me
himself and spent nearly two
hours going over the collection
with me. I was very lucky,
because it was not one of the
days on which the museum is
open to the public and a party
might have sent me about my
business - or rather might have
prevented me from accomplishing
my business, which was to see
the museum. Many of the best speci-
mens too were in cabinets under
locks & key & I should not have
seen them at all had I not met
Prof. Witbsky. I also sent in my
card to Prof. Roth a well
known lithologist and he received
me very kindly. I had previously been
told that Roth was a very queer old
fellow and that I would be greatly
amused by him. When I saw him, how-
ever I was rather interested than

amused; for he is a most intensely
old man - in some respects
simple as child, but yet a
learned man thoroughly in love
with his work. He showed me
the great rock collection which
is the foundation of his valuable
book, the last part of which
~~he~~ will be published in September.
To-day I hope to see him again.

I leave this evening for Leipzig where
I hope to see Prof. Zirkel to whom
I have a letter from Feikie. From
there I hope to go to Dresden & Freiberg
I expected to go to Freiberg before going
to Leipzig, but now find that my tickets
will not admit of this and am dis-
appointed as it will be several days
later before I can get my letters.

I have picked up several things in
Germany which I am sure will interest
& amuse the children. If I can find
anything to send by post for Clara to-mor-
row I shall forward it next week. But do
not say anything to her of this as I may
not see anything suitable. With all
love for yourself and the children

Believe me

Your loving husband

Bernard

I shall not be able
to write to Mr Andrews this
week B. —