

~~1887/80/30~~
Congress 1884 Copenhagen.

From Sir James Paget

Cust 17/80.30

(Script.)

Hamburg - Berlin Eisenbahn,

Aug. 20. 1884.

My dear Stephen,

(1 Baywood Place
Hanover Sq. W.)

I ought to write to you much more often. I ought to write to you every day and thank you for what you are every day doing for me as I have never in any vacation abroad felt so sure that my business was suffering as little as possible: indeed, as my business comes to be more nearly yours too, I doubt whether, in the end there may be any loss at all.

All that you have done for me in respect of letters and other things has been completely right. I congratulate you on your first amputation and its results. I was 33 when I did mine and did it badly; and am heartily glad that all your work has gone on well.

But I feel as if my letter ought to be about what we have been seeing and doing. No doubt, it ought to be about the scientific work of the Congress, but it would be an insult to such work to say that it will be spoiled by keeping. You have heard of most of the socialistic work, and this ended splendidly. On the Friday night, the King with the King and Queen of Greece and "the rest of the Royal Family" received all the members of the Congress in his large palace and gave a great supper in one of the finest banquet halls that I have ever seen, certainly the largest and highest. It was altogether very splendid and the music was so brilliant that even its loudness did not distress. There were about 90 tables set out in the three rooms; with abundant good food and wine, and after a speech from the King and thanks from Sir Wm. Gull, His Majesty, to my utter surprise, came and asked me "and my family" to dinner tomorrow, of course I humbly accepted the invitation though I knew that the boxes, with evening dress etc. were already on their way to the station that they might be in time for an early start "tomorrow" morning. However, they were redeemed, the carriages that were to have exported us at 6 a.m. were sent back to fetch them and all came right. The dinner was at 6. half an hour later than usual, and it was said, out of consideration for our English habits. Only Sir Hy. Acland was with us, for Gull and Parry to whom invitations had been sent had started before receiving them. It was really quite charming. All the Royal family, with four of the children of the King of Greece, and about 7 ladies and gentlemen of the court, dined at the same table and seemed to wish, chiefly, that we should feel as if we were in a family party. The King and the Queen took wine with your mother and me; your mother talked pleasantly with Prince Waldemar and Prince John whom you may remember at Abergeldie, where he shot the pair of braces; and Mary was brilliantly talking German on one side with a Danish High Chamberlain and French on the other with a Greek gentleman in waiting. Then, after dinner, we all

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went at once to the drawing room and, after half an hour's talking with one and another, the Royal family said "Good bye" and wished us happy journeys and we started at 8 o'clock to go back to Copenhagen (for this dinner was in the small summer palace at Bernstorff)

The whole event was delightful and in many things instructive: but of this we may talk some day. Harry excited great interest: one of the ladies of the court asked me, at the reception "Who is that gentleman in so strange dress?". So I introduced him to her: and then the Queen asked me to introduce him; and then I took him to the King: and after the dinner they nearly all talked with him about his East end work, and some one said "He is so young a Pope, does he really preach?"

But here is the end of the sheet and I am not sure that you have not heard already from someone else about this rare dinner. Never mind. Good bye. God bless you. All send love and all send thanks for your letter.

Ever affectionately yours,

James Paget.