

Munich Bavaria

Sunday 11 Sep 1881

My dear little wife,

I wrote you last Sunday my views fully about your father & I also telegraphed you Thursday 8 Sep as follows: [“] Do whatever cousin advises.” I feared you would be expecting a cable anxiously & so I sent it altho’ I knew it would not help you, except to add my sanctions distinctly to whatever may do, as I trust both you may do, as I trust both your & his good sense to do what circumstances on your fathers [sic] arrival, indicate to be best. I have since had a letter from Frank on the subject & he says he has [?] you fully. If Dody’s [sic] time at the Hospital is over or he can be spared, he can as Frank says help you. When I left Switzerland (8th) your 3rd letter had not yet been forwarded to me & so now I fear I shall not get any until I arrive in Milan (Hotel de la Ville) about 20 Sep so I have no later news from you than 18 Aug telling me of your fathers [sic] plans – it is a great grief to be as long without news from you & my dear boys, but moving so rapidly as I do it cannot be helped – so I trust that all is going well at my far off home. I expect, God willing, to go by rail tomorrow to Linz on the Danube & take steamboat next day to Vienna (Hotel Metropole) where I will stay a few days & then go to over the Semmering pass to Trieste & Venice arriving as stated at Milan about 20th --stay a few days to see the Exposition & then to Genoa (Hotel Isotta) for a day -- there to Mentone [sic] & Nice – thence to Paris where I expect to be in first week of Oct. As I wrote you I wrote to Cunard Co at L’pool to exchange my ticket 22 Oct to 24 Sep but they replied that every berth was taken. As I expected it on account of the rush going homeward I was not surprised. So I fear I cannot sail before 22 Oct. I am so sorry my dear wife that things have turned out so as to give you this anxiety & embarrassment.

Sometimes I think I will vow never go away from home again until you can be my companion. I miss you & the dear boys every day & hour. When that time comes if ever I will start out on another travel & we will enjoy it together. Of course that can only be when the boys are big & and we can be spared – if God spares us that long. We have had a few lovely bright days & I have enjoyed them thoroughly when feeling pretty well. But we have had few days entirely free from rain & the ther has ranged from 52 to 65 [?] quite too cool & I have worn my winter overcoat most of the time. It seems strange to see by the NY telegrams to the London papers that the ther was bet 90 & 100 on 8th Sep – I wish we had come of your heat & you some

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of our cold—it would make a nice average. I had lovely view of Jung frau [sic] at Interlaken & a beautiful time from there over the Brewig Pass to Lucerne & yesterday I spent most of the day – a beautiful clear one – driving about this very handsome city. I spent 4 ½ last night listening to one of Richard Wagners [sic] at the Royal Theatre. The scenery was perfect also the orchestra & the singing & acting excellent but I dont [sic] like Wagners [sic] music -- there are no pretty arias or melodies in it as in the Italian school. They affect to despise arias or melodies in it as in the Italian school.

I wonder what my dear pets are doing at home – how long it seems & how [intensely?] glad I shall be to see them all again & you very precious Loulie – don't let them forget me a bit. I am sorry to see the stock market still continues so down but I hope cool weather will improve it by the time I get back all will be bright. I enclose a draft for Dody Medical College on Mr. Freeman. Let him present it & give you the college receipt to file away. I make it 4 tickets = \$80 and \$5 matriculation & \$5 [?] subject. I think this is all until I get back needed – You can get him a Comm. RR ticket for Oct. I will arrange about his board in NY & [quiz?] tickets when I get back as I suppose that will be plenty of time. I suppose dear Will will have begun his school also before I get back. It is just barely possible that when I arrive in England early in Oct I may find an exchange of tickets with some one [sic] & may then arrive at home a little sooner. I hope you will have the usual lovely Oct weather. I wonder where the Greenfields went for their vacation – what Staten Island news there is. [I] wonder where the Ecclestons have been tramping around – as they generally vary their programme [sic].

When Dody draws the check please enter the items in our family account book as I will have forgotten it when I get back & so we will have trouble in making things square. Keep the book up carefully, so that we can close up the year ending 16 Oct correctly. I find that my personal expenses amount in all to about £10 a week of \$50 which is a little over \$7 a day. It seems dreadfully extravagant but a single person cannot do on less as an average – two or better four could save a great deal, if going together – mainly in carriage hire, fees, etc. I shall be glad when I can stop this expense. 1881 will foot up heavily including furnishing house – travels – Dr. bills, etc. But next year I hope we will do much better.



I will write to Belle soon & think I will enclose a note to Mrs. Robson asking her to let Belle come to us. I do hope she will as it will be nearly 2 years since she left us – less 4 mos. only. I shall try to see Frank at Nice if possible.

I notice the arrival of the Cusco from Australia in England on the 7 Sep – I suppose if berths have duly engaged before for your father & Miss I they may have left for NY on the 10 & so will be in NY by 20th. If berths were not engaged there may be delay.

Give my dear love to Dody Willie Jamie Robbie, Sydie kiss they baby – I hope he & all are over the whooping cough & none the worse – Best love to you my dear little wife from

Your loving husband,

JBH

