

1 Sept 11th. Left at 9:30 a.m. by rail to the steamboat landing, then by steamer over Lake Thun to
2 its outlet at a town of same name. Took the cars for the city of Berne where we arrived at 1:15
3 p.m. and stopped at "Hotel Belle Vue." After dinner walked about town. Visited the automatic
4 clock. It performs similar feats to the Strasbourg clock, but not as perfectly or extensively.
5 Continued our walk to the Bears Den. This is a pit, perhaps 20 feet deep and 75 feet diameter,
6 substantial walls of brick, coped with heavy stone with firm iron railing around the pit, which is
7 divided into two semi-circular sections by a wall through the centre. Here were 4 fat savage
8 looking bears, the pets of the city. A fruit and vegetable stand is kept near the pit where any
9 person having a curiosity to see a bear eat an apple can buy one and throw it to them.

10 Sept. 12th. Visited cathedral erected 1421. Fine organ. Nothing extraordinary about the
11 building except the terrace from which a very good view of the suburbs is obtained. Took
12 carriage for a drive to the summit of a very high hill called Gurten. After a pleasant ride we
13 reached the top. From our elevated position we had a birds eye view of the city of Berne and
14 an extensive view of the surrounding country. Westward we could plainly see the lake and
15 town of Neuchatel with the Jura mountains in the distance. South and east were the peaks of
16 the alps. Returned to our hotel after a drive through the city.

17 Sept. 13th. Sunday. Martha & Julia went to church. What for? I don't know as they could not
18 understand a word spoken. Mrs. Van and I remained at home. Afternoon took an extensive
19 walk on the old bastion. Examined the great granite bears on the post of the city gate. Visited
20 the Ogre on the fountain, a miserable humbug. The statehouse and museum are creditable
21 buildings, but nothing noticeable architecturally.

22 Sept 14th. Left for Geneva at 10 a.m. After a very delightful ride, arrived at Geneva at 3:15 pm.
23 Stopped at the Metropole Grand Hotel, but don't like our rooms. The hotel beautifully
24 situated. Fine park and gardens in front extending to the edge of the lake. Walked about the
25 neighborhood. Our first impression of Geneva that it is a charming place. Propose to make a
26 trip to Mont Blanc, then to settle down here for two or three weeks for a good rest.

27 Sept. 15th. Mrs. Van and the girls went to look for a boarding house. Found one, the Pension
28 Windsor. Withdrew £ 70 of Lombard Odier & Co. Mrs. Van and I visited jeweler shop. Bought
29 watch & chain for Julia. Afternoon took carriage and drove to Rothchilds Villa, a few miles
30 north on the bank of the lake. The park and gardens very extensive and as beautiful as art and
31 nature can make them. The house very large, but some Chicago Architects would have given
32 him a better building for the same money. At a distance, it has a very tame look which
33 improves on closer inspection.

34 Sept. 16th. Sent our trunks to Hotel Windsor. Went with our hand baggage on board of a
35 steamer to pass over the length of the lake to Villeneuve. Stopped a few minutes at several
36 towns along the south shore of the lake, and from Evian took a skoot across the lake to
37 Lausanne, called Ouchy at the landing, then touching at several piers along the north shore,
38 passed the Castle of Chillon to Villeneuve. Arrived about 2 o'clock. Found the cars would not