

1 built in 1215 of alternate courses of black and white marble. One of the city gates 5 stories
2 high, remarkable for being very old and unlike any other thing, or style, a regular architectural
3 freak.

4 Oct. 14th. Took the steamboat on Lake Como for Bellagio. Scenery grand & imposing. Arriving
5 at Bellagio at noon, put up at the Grand Bretagne, a very elegant hotel. The marble stairway
6 from the office to 2nd floor equals any thing in this line that I have seen. In the afternoon visited
7 some beautiful parks and gardens filled with rare plants. Then took a boat ride around the
8 promontory into Lake Lecco. The wind blew pretty strong, and Mrs. Van did not like the looks
9 of things in so small a boat. I ordered the boatmen to put back which they did. In the evening
10 had a band of music & fire works in front of our hotel for our amusement, as I expect to find by
11 my bill.

12 Oct. 15th. Paid hotel bill (4 francs for music). Took row boat and crossed Lake Como to
13 Menaggio. Hired carriage for a drive to Porlezza at east end of Lake Lugano. This drive of 10 or
14 12 miles, perfectly delightful. There were no incidents on the trip to vary the monotony of this
15 journal. The mountain crests in varied outline shown. The ruined towers with ivy overgrown,
16 the milk white cascades on the mountain side, all brot to view in this most pleasant ride. At
17 Porlezza found the steamboat would not leave for two hours. Concluded to take a row boat,
18 and after a very pleasant ride of three hours arrived at the beautiful town of Lugano. Put up at
19 Hotel du Parc. The views of the lake and surrounding mountains from this spot are perfectly
20 enchanting. The hotel is surrounded by a beautiful garden with fountains & pavilions for wine
21 and music. We had another very good serenade this evening. Of course I shall pay for it in the
22 morning.

23 Oct. 16th. Just as I expected, 2 francs for music. Hired a carriage for a 12 mile drive to Luino.
24 Found it more pleasing if possible than our ride yesterday, poetry and all included. Arrived at
25 Luino at 12 o'clk. Hotel keeper said we had an hour to wait for the steamboat, so ordered
26 dinner. When about half through, heard the steamer whistle. Had to make quick time for the
27 pier as the boat stops only 5 minutes. Safely on board, it had looked like rain all the morning
28 and now fulfilled its promise, which came pretty neat spoiling our trip on this lake (Maggiore)
29 but we had so much beautiful weather on our trip that we did not feel like complaining.
30 Landed at Stresa about 3 o'clock and engaged rooms in the Hotel des Isles Boromeo. Had three
31 rooms, all of our windows fronting on the lake. Rain continued till night.

32 Oct. 17th. A beautiful clear morning. Splendid view of the lake and its surroundings. Put the
33 field glass in requisition. Could see Luino (the town we left yesterday) and far beyond it up the
34 lake. After breakfast went on board a row boat for a visit to the Islands. First Isola Bella. Went
35 through a palatial mansion, finished & furnished in the most luxurious and extravagant style.
36 Then through the park and garden. Here I am stuck. To describe this paradise with pen and ink
37 is simply impossible.

38 On terraced walls the woodbine crawls