

JOURNAL OF JOHN MILLS VAN OSDEL
(Chicago's first Architect)
AND HIS FAMILY
FROM CHICAGO TO EUROPE AND BACK, 1874-1875
Volume 1

Transcribed by Phillip J. Livoni, CSR.

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Transcription Notes:

This journal was written in longhand by John Mills Van Osdel. He was a skilled wordsmith with a remarkable vocabulary. As was common for Victorian writers, he used commas excessively, and he seldom used periods. He often used a ":" or a "÷" in lieu of a period, but most often he used another comma. As was also common for Victorian writers, he capitalized most nouns. He omits the apostrophe to denote possession, such as "John's journal."

To aid in the readability of these Journals, the transcription in this WORD document utilizes periods, commas, and capitalization in accordance with modern punctuation standards because the original punctuation makes the journals difficult to understand without numerous re-readings.

These Journals reflect the constant changing of the English language. The 19th-century spellings of words were left as Mr. Van Osdel wrote them. For example, the following words were two separate words in 1874-75: to day, to morrow, every body, side walk, etc.

All underlining of words reflects Mr. Van Osdel's original underlining.

Any letters or words in brackets, "[]," are clarifications made by the transcriber. The bracketed page numbers inserted into the original index are the accurate page numbers for this WORD document.

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1 Journal of a trip from Chicago to Europe, and return. Party consisting of John M. Van Osdel and
2 wife & their adopted daughters Martha & Julia

3 Left Chicago on the morning of May 11th, 1874, by Pittsburg & Ft. Wayne R. Road. Detained 2
4 hours near Harrisburg on account of an oil train taking fire a few miles in front of us. Arrived at
5 Jersey City on the evening of the 12th. Made arrangement with Duncan, Sherman & Co. to draw
6 money in Europe. Deposited with them \$11300 as collateral and drew £ 1000 in circular notes
7 with the understanding that further amounts would be sent me as required by mail. Left D&S
8 statement of the deposit in hand of E.K. Hunt, New York, my balances to draw 4 per cent
9 interest. Bought water proof overcoat, and 4 chairs. Made a carriage excursion through Central
10 Park and visited Cousin Mary Forbes. Sailed on the afternoon of the 16th on Steamship Iroa for
11 Liverpool. Supper being ready immediately after the ship got under way, we all partook of a
12 hearty meal, noticed particularly, as it was the Last meal that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the party required for two or
13 three days. We found as soon as we were fairly out at sea a heavy "beam sea" as the sailors
14 term an undulating motion of the water, forming "dead swells" (waves without wind) that roll
15 parallel to the keel, or against the beams of the decks. The ship in riding over these waves
16 performed a rocking, side to side motion, which had a quick, and curious affect upon many of
17 the passengers; most of them imaging that the top of their head was on hinges and would lift
18 like the lid of a coffee pot. Then they would imagine they were sick, and place themselves in
19 cascading position. They had no ear for music, and the sound of the dinner bell was a torment,
20 rather than a pleasing tintabulation [tintinnabulation]. There were but 5 persons at breakfast
21 on the first morning at sea, and I happened to be one of them, nor did I feel at any time during
22 the voyage the least sensation of uneasiness by reason of the motion of the vessel. The 2nd &
23 third days were densely foggy, and our prudent Captain ran his vessel at slow speed and kept
24 the ship bell tolling at intervals to warn vessels & ice bergs to keep out of our way. It was not
25 very agreeable to hear these signals continued through the night, as one could not tell at what
26 moment some stupid Ice-berg might fail to get out of the way. On the 3rd day a majority of the
27 passengers, feeling that the top of their heads were secure, ventured upon deck; and cautiously
28 approached the dinner tables. The last 6 or 7 days of the voyage were pleasant; and with little
29 or no wind. Our noble ship sped gloriously on her way, and early on the morning of the 26th the
30 rock bound coast of old Ireland came into view. About 10 o'clock we left the ship on a small
31 steamer to be landed at Queenstown, and in a few minutes the noble craft left us on her way to
32 Liverpool. On landing at Queenstown the first thing in order was the examination of our
33 baggage by the custom house officers. The "Cove of Cork" (now called Queenstown, in honor
34 of Queen Victorias landing here on her visit to Ireland in 1849) is a magnificent harbour strongly
35 fortified, and its beauties were much enhanced to our view after 10 days monotonous riding
36 upon the ocean.

37 In about one hour after landing we reembarked on a jaunty little steamer to ascend the river
38 Lee, 6 miles to the City of Cork. The banks of the river on either side are surpassingly beautiful.
39 Thrifty villages, picturesque parks & gardens, and occasionally an old castle made up the
40 pleasing and varied panorama. On arriving at Cork, secured a parlor and 2 bedrooms at the

1 "Imperial Hotel." They were sumptuously furnished, and having our meals served in our parlor,
2 we entered upon our course on the high pressure principle. After dinner took carriage and
3 drove through the beautiful suburbs of the city; and along the left bank of the Lee, 6 miles to
4 the celebrated "Blarney Castle" erected in the 15th cent., and now a very picturesque ruin
5 covered with ivy, a large square building (forming a part of the castle) now standing 120 feet
6 high surmounted by a heavy projecting parapet supported on massive corbels of stone. The
7 walls about 10 feet thick are in remarkably good condition. At one angle of the building is a
8 circular tower containing a winding, stone stairway by which we ascended to the top of the
9 building (of course there is no roof or floors). The parapet overhanging the outer face of the
10 walls gives a broad foot path on top of the walls all round the building. The celebrated "blarney
11 stone" forms the base of part of this parapet; and rests on two of the corbels. A hole has been
12 cut through the wall opposite this stone where persons placing themselves in a horizontal
13 position face downwards, can propel themselves forward and outward slightly downward and
14 kiss the stone (which Julia did) and I didn't. After a satisfactory survey and examination of the
15 ruin, we proceeded a short distance to a new and elegant villa nearly completed for the present
16 proprietor of the Blarney Estate. Style Elizabethan, a very large and well arranged family
17 mansion. I was particularly pleased with the interior finish and its magnificent hall and
18 stairway.

19 On the second day at Cork took carriage and drove around the city, admired the architecture of
20 its public building particularly of Queens College. Left the next morning by rail for Kilarney
21 where we arrived in good condition in time for dinner.

22 May 28th. Put up at the "Royal Victoria." After lunch took carriage (with proper guide) and
23 drove through charming parks and gardens to Muckross Abbey and the Torc Waterfall. Then
24 over Lord Herberts grounds to the margin of the lake where we dismissed our carriage and took
25 to water in a four oared row boat and had a splendid view of the landscapes bordering the
26 lakes on our way back to our hotel. The next morning was Friday, and the heavens looked
27 rather inauspicious for Sky-larking, but as we had sent our trunks from Cork direct to Dublin, we
28 could not remain in Kilarney over Sunday. And requiring Saturday for the trip to Dublin, we
29 were forced to take this Friday as we found it. It looked like rain, but we started in a carriage
30 for the "Gap of Dunloe," arriving there at the cottage of the veritable Kate Kearney. I sipped a
31 little mountain dew from the hand of Kates grand daughter, and mounting our horses prepared
32 to do the celebrated Gap of Dunloe (a sort of Yosemite Valley, but not quite so much so) -about
33 5 miles in length. It commenced to rain and it did rain. We were pretty well prepared for it,
34 wrapped up in our water proof cloaks, but mine was too short, and when I dismounted, I found
35 my right boot full of water. The rain held up, however, and we embarked in a boat (we found
36 ready for us) to explore the lakes, which we did in a most thorough manner. Found our
37 carriage had driven back and around to the opposite side of the lake. We disembarked and had
38 a long & lovely ride (in a somewhat humid condition) over Lord Kenmares grounds, visiting
39 "Ross Castle," a fine old ruin. Again embarking in our boat, we visited Innisfallen Island and saw
40 the ruins of an old abbey founded by Saint Finian in A.D. 600. We then returned to our hotel,

1 put the drying room of the house in requisition, had our supper, a good fine, and very soon
2 after, a sound sleep, and found the next morning that none of us were on the sick list, which
3 however was no fault of ours.

4 Had a prosperous journey over the loveliest country I ever saw to the grand old city of Dublin
5 and put up at the Shelbourne Hotel where we found first class accommodations and enjoyed it.

6 Sunday May 31st. Felt a little uneasiness this morning in my left side but managed to eat a good
7 breakfast about 9 o'clock. Walked out to find the Baptist Church on Abbey Street. On arriving
8 there at 11 o'clock, found that the service did not commence until 12. I began to suffer so
9 much pain in my side that we returned to our hotel. I went immediately to bed and for 4 hours
10 had one of the most violent of those periodic neuralgic pains that I had ever experienced. After
11 getting relief slept for the balance of the day.

12 Monday. Took carriage and drove through the city, examined its principal buildings. The Bank
13 of Ireland is a magnificent pile of classic architecture built of white marble rendered perfectly
14 black by time and coal smoke; St. Patricks Cathedral, a grand old structure of the 12th century;
15 Trinity College is an imposing pile, covers a large area, including its courts & gardens (30 acres).
16 The Custom House (architecture Doric) is a magnificent building, cost 2 ½ millions of dollars;
17 Nelsons Monument a noble Doric shaft 70 feet high standing on a granite pedestal 30 feet high.
18 Visited the Botanic Gardens, a very interesting and delightful place. Finally drove through and
19 around Phoenix Park, a fine drive but not equal to Central Park, N.Y. The Wellington
20 Monument of granite 200 feet high is a very imposing object placed in this park. There are
21 many fine dwellings, but there is nothing worthy of remark in the style of architecture. Severe
22 plainness and everlasting durability seems to be the prevailing notion.

23 June 1st. Drew £ 100 in gold of the Bank of Ireland and left on the 2nd at 7 o'clock p.m. on
24 steamer for Glasgow. The sea was calm, had a good nights rest, rose early in the morning of
25 the 3rd and found we were abreast of the Ailsa Craig and about 1 mile from it. This Craig is a
26 round island of rock 1000 feet high and 3 miles in circumference. The walls on 3 sides are
27 nearly perpendicular. The effect was grand standing as it does far from any other land. In a
28 few hours we entered the Firth or bay of Clyde and then up the broad and splendid river, the
29 banks on either side transcendently beautiful. And passing several hundred of iron ships on
30 the stocks, some nearly finished, and others in every stage of progress, we landed about noon
31 in the great commercial City of Glasgow containing about 500,000 inhabitants, full of life and
32 business activity. We put up at the McLean Hotel in a quiet & aristocratic neighborhood, but
33 found the house poorly conducted, and our rooms were not as pleasant as we desired. We did
34 not change however as we did not intend to remain long in the place. Took carriage in the
35 afternoon. Visited principal places of interest in the city. Drove through the West Park, a
36 beautiful place. In this park is located the Glasgow University, a very extensive building with
37 considerable pretension to Architectural embellishment.

1 Next day June 4th proposed this morning to make an excursion to the town of Ayr 40 miles
2 south west of Glasgow to visit the scenes of the Poet Burns early performances. Mrs. Van did
3 not care to make the trip. She remained at Glasgow in company with a Mrs. Holmes, an invalid
4 lady who with her husband, a Presbyterian Minister of Hudson, New York, were fellow
5 passengers with us on the Iroa, and had been our fellow travelers in Ireland, so that Mr.
6 Holmes, the two girls and I made the trip to Ayr and returned the same day. It proved a very
7 interesting and pleasant days excursion. Saw the house in which Burns was born (or the hut
8 rather than house). Sat down on the "Banks o Bonnie Doon." Visited Tam O Shanter Inn.
9 Bought a beautiful little volume of Burns poems from the keeper of the stall in the Base of the
10 Poet monument.

11 Also on the 3rd drove out to the Queens Park, and then around a large common, or public park,
12 called Glasgow Green. Very picturesque, it is about 2 miles in circumference and is used
13 principally for clothes drying & bleaching.

14 Left on the 5th at 7:40 a.m. by rail for the town of Balloch at south end of Loch Lomond, passing
15 on our way the old historic Dumbarton Castle of which we had a fine view. Steamboat on the
16 lake to Inversnaid where we took coach for 10 miles to Stronachlacher [Stronachlachnar], and
17 then stopped for dinner at the west end of Loch Katrine. I was very ill at this place and had
18 suffered great pain during the trip on Loch Lomond which culminated here, and soon after
19 getting on board of the steamer on Lake Katrine, the pain having subsided, I fell asleep from
20 exhaustion and saw none of the magnificent scenery by which this lake is surrounded. Leaving
21 the boat, we were again in coaches to travel about 12 miles to Collander; where we arrived
22 safely and left immediately by rail for the old Town of Stirling where we arrived about 5 p.m.
23 Put up at a very comfortable hotel and Doctor Holmes and the girls slipped off for a stroll about
24 the city. His wife, Mrs. Van, and I preferred an easy chair and a little rest after the fatigue of
25 the day. I would remark here that 5 o'clock in this latitude at this time of year is about the
26 middle of the afternoon. One could see by -daylight to read a letter at ½ past 10 in the evening,
27 making the nights very short and the days almost interminable. This will account for the large
28 amount of sight-seeing done in such apparently short time.

29 On the 6th rose early, explored the old Stirling Castle, and enjoyed the splendid panoramic
30 views from its parapets. Southward we could see the battle field of Bannockburn, westward a
31 lovely valley, northward a fertile plain bounded by the picturesque highlands, eastward an
32 undulating fertile tract extending for many miles toward the sea. On our left about 2 miles
33 distant on an eminence jutting upward 300 feet above the plain stands a lofty and well
34 designed tower in memory of the Hero Walace, while immediately in front at the edge of the
35 town are the ruins of the Abbey Cambuskenneth. A large tower is still standing, which we
36 visited and ascended. This tower has been restored of late years and is in very good order. The
37 historical events connected with Stirling Castle are of great interest but outside of my purpose
38 in writing this journal; therefore, I will not recite them. In the afternoon took the train and in
39 one hour and a half reached the City of Edinburg [Edinburgh] and were fortunate in securing

splendid rooms in the "Royal Mc Gregor" situated in the New Town on Princess Street, opposite the Walter Scott monument. The city is divided by a deep valley into two parts, the old part lying south of the valley, and the new city on the north. On the summit of a tremendous precipice on the south side at the west end of the old city stands the grand old "Edinburg Castle, whose origin is clouded in obscurity." The valley extending eastward expands into a wide plain and on this plan is located the historic old Palace of "Holyrood." The plain is bounded on the south by a mountain called "Talisburg Craig," and on the north by "Calton hill." There is an observatory and several imposing monuments on this hill. One, in memory of the Heros of Waterloo, was designed to represent the "Parthenon." The colonnade was set up and the frieze of the cornice placed on the columns when the funds gave out, and the work was never completed. The cols are 6 or 7 feet diameter of granite. The colonnade is very imposing and in my judgement has a better effect as a monument than the original plan could have had. The public buildings are very fine, generally of classic architecture. We hired a guide to show us through the city, visiting Holy Rood, the castle, the cathedral, university, botanical gardens, and many other places of interest, and were amply repaid for our time and fatigue.

June 9th. Hired a carriage and guide for an excursion to Roslin Castle 6 or 8 miles from the city. Stopped on our way to examine the ruins of Craig Millar Castle [Craigmillar], a large portion of the originally immense structure had crumbled down, but enough remains to make it an object of great interest. We were shown the dungeons where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned, also dungeons where other celebrities had close and very uncomfortable quarters. It was in this castle that Bothwell conspired with his fellows to take the life of Darnley (Marys sick husband). From this place drove to the Palace of the "Duke of Buccleuch." The family being absent, we were shown through the Palace, a magnificent building abounding in pictures & statuary. The grand hall and stairway finished in costly marbles had a stunning effect on our republican simplicity. Leaving, we drove to Hawthornden Glen, a small old castle built upon the rocky cliffs of the Glen, was a place of refuge for Bruce when pursued by his enemies. We were shown several caves and hiding places cut in the rocks under the castle with galleries and stairways leading down to them from the castle. We left our carriage at this point to walk up the gorge, or Glen, some 2 miles to Roslin Castle. We found a good foot path in a wild & romantic rock walled valley and soon came to the world renowned Castle of Roslin. It was in pretty good order for a neglected building 6 or 800 years old. After thorough exploration, walked $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile to Roslin Chapel. This is a small Gothic church erected ____ with the castle, but has been kept in good preservation. The capitals of the columns and many other parts of the original sculpturing is as perfect as the day it was finished. Casts were taken of many of the ornamental parts of this building to serve as models in the ornamentation of the new houses of parliament. There is a village near this church where we refreshed ourselves, and our carriage having passed around the glen, awaited us. We were soon returned to our hotel at Edinburg after a day of unmitigated pleasure and enjoyment.

Left Edinburg June 10th for Melrose, where we arrived about 11 o'clock a.m. Found a good hotel. After dinner took carriage and drove 3 m. to Abottsford, the home of Walter Scott, now

1 owned by his grand-daughter. Were shown through the interior of the house. The library
2 containing 20,000 vols, Scotts easy chair, and a case containing some second hand clothing,
3 said to have been the last worn by the great novelist. The armoury contains many curios
4 specimens of antique shooting irons, and many curiosities and relics, among which is a sword
5 worn by Napoleon 1st, etc. In his library is the veritable Chest in which Genevra hid herself on
6 her wedding day, and having a spring lock, she was not found for several years afterward. At
7 appears that Scott wrote a very pathetic piece in regard to this matter, and the relatives of
8 Genevra gave him the chest as a token of their gratitude. Drove from Abbotsford to Dryburg
9 [Dryburgh] Abbey where Scott is buried. He has an elegant tomb in one corner of the old ruin.
10 The abbey was erected A.D. 1150. Enough remains to indicate that it was a magnificent Gothic
11 building of vast proportions and ramifications. Next morning visited Melrose Abbey located
12 near our hotel, and left at 11:15 a.m. for Carlisle where we stopped over night. Visited an old
13 castle in the neighborhood and left early in the morning for Penrith where we left the cars and
14 took a stage-coach for the east end of Lake Ullswater, then on board a small steamboat over
15 the lake (lengthwise) to Patterdale. Took dinner and left by carriage 12 miles to the beautiful
16 town of Ambleside at the head of Lake Windermere where we put up for the night. We felt
17 inclined to stop here for several days, but we were in the same predicament as at Kilarney. We
18 had sent our heavy baggage from Edinburg to Liverpool direct, and no Sunday fixings with us, so
19 that we left on Saturday morning the 13th by steamer over Lake Windermere for Lakeside. The
20 scenery of Lakes Ullswater & Windermere is very picturesque and beautiful. At Lakeside took
21 the cars for Furness Abbey where we spent four hours and could have remained four days
22 without tiring in our explorations of this vast and intensely interesting ruin.

23 Arrived at Liverpool about 8:15 Saturday evening and engaged a parlor and two bedrooms at
24 the Adelphi, which we found first class in every respect.

25 On Sunday we were anxious to see our Niece, Ella Wright. Went to her house and found she
26 was visiting a friend some 2 or 3 miles out of town. Loaded into a carriage and went for her.
27 Found the place without difficulty. She was pleased to see us, and we had a good time
28 generally. The girls pressed Ella to go with us and remain with us at our hotel until we got
29 ready to leave Liverpool, which she did. We found that Mrs. Bruce (our Niece Sarah) was
30 keeping house some 3 or 4 miles in an opposite direction from where we found Ella, and as we
31 had already smashed the Sabbath, thought a little farther crack wouldn't hurt it much. So we
32 went for Mr. Bruce. Met him, his wife & Kitty on their way to church. After the usual scenes on
33 such occasions, they led the way back to their house. They have a beautiful place and are very
34 happily situated. We remained to dinner and found they were on the point of making a visit to
35 London and were to start on the next Tuesday. So we determined to do up Liverpool on
36 Monday and accompany them.

37 Monday morning June 15th. Hired carriage, fortunately with a very intelligent driver, who made
38 us a first class guide. [Inserted at the top of page 21: (Drew £ 100 of Baring & Bros)]. Visited
39 most of the public buildings and thoroughly explored the docks which are the pride and boast

1 of the Liverpoolians, and they may well be proud of them, and particularly their graving docks
2 where the largest class vessels are in a few hours left high and dry for repairs or examination.
3 The St. Georges Hall is a splendid building with faultless classic architecture. The Town Hall of
4 Palladian-Italian, surmounted by a well proportioned dome. In the hasty glance I gave this city,
5 I saw nothing very remarkable in its architecture except the extraordinary solidity of all their
6 works.

7 June 16th. Left Liverpool and arrived in London at dark. Drove to the Langham Hotel. Found it
8 full. Found our way to a boarding house recommended by our coachman. After breakfast the
9 next morning, Mrs. Van and I took a cab and started to find permanent quarters as we did not
10 like our present place. Found pleasant rooms at Mrs. Wrights No 15 upper Woburn Place and
11 forthwith made it our home. The west end of London where we are located seems to be the
12 modern part of the city, laid out with innumerable little parks filled with beds of flowers, kept in
13 most perfect order. Many of these parks are not open to the public, but houses fronting the
14 parks have keys to the gates and are great places of resort for the little folks with their nurses.
15 Spent this day in walking around in the neighborhood of our boarding house.

16 18th. Mrs. Van and the girls out shopping. I got measured for a suit of clothes. Selected coarse
17 black & white mixed. I expect to make a comical appearance. Extended our walks down
18 Regent St. Saw many beautiful business houses, but the dwellings generally make no
19 pretensions to architectural beauty. In fact the great majority of the houses look like poorly
20 lighted mills or factories. Many of the front doors have some slight attempt at style, the
21 windows without caps, a simple square hole in the wall. A plain coping on top of wall without
22 any cornice whatever.

23 19th. Visited St. Pauls Cathedral. I found it all that was ever claimed for it. First walked entirely
24 around it. The space around the building is so narrow that a proper perspective view cannot be
25 obtained of this wonderful structure. What a pity that it does not stand in some wide park,
26 away from the smoke and dust of the city, as it is difficult to say whether it is of white or
27 chocolate colored marble. It is so everlasting dingy that it looks twice as old as it really is, but
28 this has nothing to do with its beautiful proportions which would gladden the heart of any
29 architect, not wholly given up to florid gimcrackery, of which there is nothing on all this great
30 building. The interior is in perfect keeping with its exterior, perfectly simple, yet so beautiful.
31 (They are engaged however in spoiling it inside by covering all the moldings & foliage with gold
32 leaf which I look upon as an abomination anywhere except upon a weather cock.) In the crypt is
33 Wellingtons Monument and funeral car, both very magnificent. Sir Christopher Wrens tomb,
34 the inscription on this tomb "For his Monument, look around you." The whispering gallery is at
35 the base of the inner dome. The slightest whisper with the face turned to the wall is very
36 distinctly heard at the opposite side of the gallery. As we were leaving the gallery, Martha
37 noticed a young man at the opposite side with his hat on. She thought she would try the effect
38 of a loud whisper, putting her face to the wall said "take off your hat sir." The young man
39 jerked off his hat and looked around in confusion to see who had spoken to him, and noticing

1 the girls, took in the situation, and blushed vehemently. Mrs. Van and I walked around the
2 outside of the great dome, and the girls clambered up to the lantern, but did not go up into the
3 bell. Went up in the clock tower, and while Mrs. Van stood directly under the great bell. ~~T~~, the
4 clock struck. The clock keeps good time, but Mrs. Van made better time getting out from under
5 that bell. After taking a lunch, hired a two horse carriage, a fine spanking team of greys, and
6 drove around Hyde Park. All the Nababs of the city were out for a drive, and we passed them in
7 review. Saw princesses, duchesses, and many other asses, much to the edification of our girls,
8 who are crazy after Gimcrackery, and did them good to see a living specimen of Royalty.

9 20th. Mrs. Van and the girls went out shopping to day, and I did a large amount of
10 perambulating.

11 Sunday 21st. Made this a day of rest emphatically. Didn't leave the house.

12 22nd. Did the Zoological Gardens and Regents Park, both unexceptional in their way. Visited
13 Mr. P. Wright and lunched with his family in a very fashionable quarter of the city. Enjoyed the
14 visit very much. Mr. Wright presented me with a card of introduction to the Royal Botanic
15 Gardens, Mr. Wright being one of the Fellows of the society, and without a fellows card of
16 introduction, you can't come in. In the afternoon in company with Mrs. Bruce, visited the
17 Albert Memorial Hall and International Gardens. The hall is a magnificent circular building used
18 for concerts and operas. The gardens & halls surrounding them are very beautiful and used as
19 exposition places for works of art, of which there was great profusion. Took another drive
20 through Hyde Park and noticed particularly the Albert Monument, a work of art almost equal to
21 Walter Scotts Monument, but spoiled with gold leaf ornamentation.

22 23rd. Visited the Tower of London. The guides are found in a small antae room at the gate.
23 They are dilapidated soldiers who have distinguished themselves in battle and are dressed in a
24 flaming red uniform hashed & striped with black. Of course they know every crook & cranny in
25 this intensely interesting old building. Julius Caesar is believed to be the originator of it, though
26 some believe it to have been built in the 11th century. Covers about 12 acres of ground. We
27 were shown first the Traitors Gate, opening from the river; then the Bloody Tower, where
28 Richard 111rd murdered his nephews; another tower where the Duke of Clarence was drown in
29 a pipe of wine; the tower in which Lady Jane Grey was imprisoned; the prison of Anne Boleyn –
30 and many other distinguished persons. The armory is very interesting. The block was shown us
31 on which Lord Lovatt laid his neck and the very axe which went crashing through his windpipe
32 and vertebrae and left an ugly and suggestive mark in the block.

33 It was very interesting for us but not so funny for poor Lovatt. We were shown a very
34 interesting chapel in the White Tower of Norman architecture. Also the spot in the courtyard
35 where the state execution took place. Here Lady Jane Grey saw her husband beheaded and
36 then laid her own head upon the block. Ann Boleyn, Sir Walter Raleigh, and hosts of others
37 were served in like manner. In the Jewell room we were shown the Crown Jewells, among

1 them the famous Kohinoor diamond, crowns & sceptres, and gewgaws worth millions of
2 dollars.

3 24th. Explored the British Museum. The building is an imposing structure finished 20 years
4 since. Grecian architecture with imposing colonades. Saw here the Elgin Marbles, being parts
5 of ancient Greek buildings brought from Athens by Lord Elgin. I found them of great interest.
6 The zoological department was full & complete. The reading room or Library is an immense
7 rotunda 140 feet diameter and 106 feet high, covered with a dome. Around this room
8 beautifully arranged are 850000 volumes of printed books. Separate reading desks for 300
9 persons. There are two large tables for ladies exclusively. In the afternoon went to the Royal
10 Botanic Gardens in Regents Park. Here we used the card of introduction kindly furnished us by
11 Mr. Wm P. Wright and found ourselves in the midst of the Bobs and Nabobs of this great city.
12 The garden is enclosed by a high fence. Contains perhaps 20 acres beautifully arranged with
13 broad walks and shady retreats, serpentine lakes and rustic bridges. The floral show under an
14 immense canvas tent far exceeded any exhibition of flowers I ever saw. The roses were
15 particularly fine. In fact I never knew what a first class rose meant until I saw those. Exhibition
16 of fruit very good, strawberries as large as hens eggs, etc. We had two full bands of music, and
17 as soon as one set blowed out, the other pitched in and made quite a time of it. Quite a smart
18 shower of rain gave variety to the programme, and it was interesting soon after to see the
19 costly silk trains trailing along on the moistened walks. Met Mr. Wright and Mr. Bruce as we
20 were passing out of the garden. It is fashionable here to go to such places about the time
21 everybody should be going home.

22 25th. Went to see Madame Tousauds [Tussaud's] wax figures. Very interesting, but feeling very
23 ill, Mrs. Van and I returned to our hotel leaving the girls to enjoy the show alone. Found myself
24 in for another of those fearful attacks of pain in my left side, but it was not so severe as
25 formerly.

26 26th. Visited Crystal Palace at Sydenham, about 7 or 8 miles S.E. of the city. There is nothing
27 about the building worthy of note except its vastness. The grounds surrounding the Palace are
28 "perfectly lovely," fountains and flower beds, shrubs & evergreens in endless profusion.
29 Besides which the site being elevated, we had a magnificent landscape view in every direction –
30 said to be the best in England. In the Palace we found besides the ordinary exhibition of works
31 of art, machinery, etc., a large section fitted up in imitations of the styles of building in different
32 ages, and in various parts of the world. A perfect imitation of a first class home in Pompei, full
33 size, the Alhambra in Moorish style, model of a Temple cut in the side of a rock at Nubia,
34 specimens of Greek art, models of Roman, Assyrian, Byzantine, German & English Medieval,
35 Renaissance, and Elizabethan. These models are large rooms and courts, and one can imagine
36 himself transferred from place to place and from age to age in a tromkling. This was of greatest
37 interest to me. The galleries are adorned with pictures & sculpture "ad infinitum." A concert of
38 vocal & instrumental music in the rotunda, on a large scale, took place in the afternoon which
39 was largely attended, and the girls were particularly happy.

1 27th. Explored Westminster Abbey & Houses of Parliament to day. It was a huge undertaking
2 for one day, but we accomplished it in a very satisfactory manner. The Gothic style of
3 architecture adopted for the House of Parliament was in my judgement a mistake. The great
4 magnitude of the building gives the details a trifling and flippery appearance, yet those details
5 taken by themselves are very beautiful. The old Westminster Hall and St Stephens Chapel for a
6 part of the Parliament Houses. The architect was instructed to incorporate them as best he
7 could in his designs for the new buildings. And it was on this account perhaps that he adopted
8 the Gothic for the entire building. The Westminster Hall built A.D. 1097 is a very large Gothic
9 building with open roof in one room only. This hall is full of historic interest. Here Anne
10 Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Mary Queen of Scots, and many others were tried & condemned. At
11 the south end of this hall a broad flight of stone steps leads up to what was formerly St
12 Stephens Chapel – now a spacious corridor leading into the Parliament House. Statues of
13 eminent men adorn each side of this grand corridor. The room for the meeting of the House of
14 Lords, about 100 feet by 45 looks very like a show shop of trifling, carved panel work, and
15 gilded gimcracks. There is nothing about it that would indicate that it was the Deliberative Hall
16 of the Peers of a great nation. Turn where you will, you find fine carvings in walnut or oak, very
17 beautiful of itself, but senseless to my mind of any impression of fitness for the place. We now
18 crossed the street to the faultless old Westminster Abbey, and here we had ample reason for
19 admiration and reflection. I do not propose to describe the building or its innumerable
20 monuments. Our senses were nearly overpowered with the historic events connected with
21 those lying low beneath the pavement on which we trod. Mrs. Van sat down on a projecting
22 base of a column and sang in her own sweet voice that plaintive old hymn, “Princes, this clay
23 must be your bed in spite of all your towers, etc.” It stirred up thoughts suggestive of the
24 vanity of all human greatness. Got into a carriage and drove to the east end of London to
25 examine the Great Docks and see where the Poor of London live. Satisfied with our
26 investigation, and with the labor of the day, returned to our home very glad that to morrow
27 would be Sunday.

28 28th. Hired carriage and drove to Mr. Spurgeons Church. Were disappointed in not hearing the
29 celebrated preacher, but heard a good sermon nevertheless. We were notified that Mr.
30 Spurgeon would preach the next Sabbath.

31 29th. Went by rail to Hampton Court some 3 or 4 miles. This is a Palace built by Cardinal
32 Wolsey. The buildings cover a large area of ground, are of red brick with cut stone trimmings.
33 Henry the 8th becoming jealous that Wolsey should live in a finer palace than his own, that sly
34 old Fox made the king a present of it. There are many portraits of eminent persons and many
35 not so eminent. Charles 1st by van Dyck a very fine picture. We saw a grape vine here 90 years
36 old yields 3000 bunches of grapes per annum. It covers the ceiling of a large grapery and was
37 loaded with fruit at the time of our visit. The parks and grounds belonging to this palace are
38 very extensive and beautifully laid out and well cared for.

1 30th. Visited Greenwich Hospital by steamer on Thames some 7 or 8 miles from London. The
2 buildings comprise four large blocks. Substantial classic structures, very appropriate for their
3 purposes. One large hall is used as a picture gallery, principally representations of naval
4 engagements, many of them very fine specimens of the painters art. Returned in time to visit
5 the National Gallery Trafalgar Square, a building worthy of the great metropolis. Saw a great
6 number of fine paintings by Landseer, Rembrant [Rembrandt], Turner, and others. Returned to
7 our hotel satisfied with our discoveries.

8 July 1st. Doct. Gregory and Wm Stanton called on us this morning, Mr. Stanton bringing a letter
9 from Clara, the second letter we had received from home, the first being one from John
10 received at Liverpool. Mrs. George Wright (who with her husband had made us a call last
11 evening) suggested to Mrs. Van to try the electric baths, as Mr. Wright had been cured of a
12 stroke of paralysis by using them, so that Mrs. Van accompanied by Mrs. Wright started off on
13 this bathing expedition, and the girls and I went out for a walk.

14 July 2nd. Girls off promenading. Mrs. Van and I remained at home for a rest.

15 July 3rd. Girls at home reading a novel! Mrs. Van and I went the second time to see Madame
16 Tousauds [Tussaud's] wax figures as I was too ill to remain on our first visit. The innumerable
17 figures are very lifelike and are supposed to bear a strong resemblance to the persons they
18 represent. Here were all the kings and queens we had ever read about, dressed in the fashion
19 of their times. Henry the eighth surrounded by his six wives; Queen Victoria in state with her
20 court around her; Gen'l Grant, Napoleon & Lincoln. A room in the rear of the Grand Salon
21 called the Salon of Horrors contained numerous murderers, a fac simile of the French
22 Guillotine, Marie Antoinettes head after it had been cut off, and an old rusty blade said to be
23 the very instrument used in the guillotine in the reign of terror, by which many thousand heads
24 had been separated from their bodies. In another room two of Napoleons carriages and some
25 second hand clothing said to have been worn by him. Went home satisfied.

26 July 4th. Went to dine at Mr. George Wrights and spent the evening with them, a very pleasant
27 affair. Enjoyed our visit muchly.

28 July 5th. Sunday. Succeeded in hearing Mr. Spurgeon preach, and he did it well, his text "I
29 looked on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies." He talked plain, and every body
30 thought he meant them, and did I. Dr. Holmes (the Presbyterian Minister from Hudson) was
31 particularly edified. He determined that when he returned to his people, he would remember
32 the plain home thrust style of Spurgeon and give them a sample of it.

33 July 6th. Mrs. Van and Martha each took electric baths this morning. Afternoon went by
34 steamboat to Kew Gardens, a lovely park and flower garden of vast extent. Had a delightful
35 afternoon and returned to the city by the underground railway.

36 July 7th. [At top of page "(Drew £ 60 of U.B. Chasing Cross)"] Visited Kensington Museum
37 containing pictures, sculptures, antiques of every description, tapestry, and other curious

1 fabrics. The building is large and well arranged for the purpose. Many of the large halls lighted
2 from the roof and were two stories high, galleries forming the second story, allowing the light
3 to pass from the roof to the first floor. We did not stay very long as we find the museums
4 tedious and seemingly very much alike and, having very little taste for the science of a
5 minerology, coins and pottery, we went through the collection rapidly.

6 July 8th. Ladies out shopping. I amused myself strolling around the city.

7 July 9th. Went to Dulwich Gallery of paintings about 5 miles by rail. Walked about a mile from
8 the station to the gallery which is a one story building erected purposely to contain this
9 collection of pictures. They were collected for Stanislaus, King of Poland, who died before the
10 purchaser could deliver them, and the heirs of the purchaser bequeathed them to the Dulwich
11 College. There are a number of very fine paintings by celebrated masters of the art. Found the
12 excursion a very agreeable one & returned early in the evening.

13 July 10th. Shopping again, leaving me to my own resources. Took a cab and drove through
14 many interesting streets that I had not before visited.

15 July 11th. Girls went to a concert at Albert Hall. Mrs. Van and I drove around through the city
16 and St James Park.

17 July 12th. Sunday. Went to Church at Foundling Hospital Episcopal service. The children (some
18 300 of them) sat in the gallery each side of the organ. They were dressed uniformly, many of
19 them very good looking. We felt keenly interested in these little unknowns. We were shown
20 through the building (after service). Found many fine pictures and were ushered into the dining
21 room and saw the little folks at their dinner. It did me good. Those charitable institutions have
22 a strong hold upon my affections.

23 13th July. Mrs. Van and I visited the Dore Gallery of paintings and afterward to the Academy to
24 see Miss Thompson, Roll Call, a very extraordinary performance for a young lady. Gives her
25 great notoriety.

26 July 14th. Bought guide books and tickets for Paris. Left London at 7 p.m. by rail for New Haven
27 where we arrived about 9 o'clock. Went on board steamboat and went to bed. Had a calm
28 voyage across the channel and arose early in the morning, 15th, at the mouth of the harbor of
29 Dieppe. We had to wait an hour or two for the tide to rise so that our boat could pass over the
30 bar at the mouth of the harbor. Had breakfast on board and at 9 o'clock were on board the
31 cars and left Dieppe for Paris passing by the city of Rouen, at such a distance however that we
32 could only get a general view of it. Arrived safely in Paris at 2 p.m. and, having already engaged
33 rooms at Mrs. Fouellys by letter, we drove directly to her hotel and found the rooms very
34 pleasant, being a well furnished parlor with bed rooms on each side, all three rooms fronting on
35 a wide, pleasant street. After short walk, we had supper and early to bed.

36 July 16th. My first impressions of Paris after a promenade of two hours yesterday were not
37 equal to my preconceived notions. The modern private residences have very little boldness of

1 relief. There is a great abundance of ornamentation in flat relief. Pilasters and moldings with
2 very slight projection. Add to this the interminable monotony, block after block and street
3 after street. The buildings have the same height, style, & finish, the inevitable entresol, and the
4 ornamental barn door. The fourth story balcony and Mansard roof. But this is only my first
5 walk, and Paris can't be justly criticized upon half a days acquaintance. Mrs. Van and the girls
6 wished to do some shopping. Accompanied them as far as the gardens of the Tulleries
7 [Tuileries], where I parted with them – they to do their shopping, and I went to Galignan's office
8 and registered. Also subscribed for the "Messenger" to be sent to my room daily for 3 weeks.
9 Bought a guide book for Paris. Afternoon went to Krauss & Co and found 3 letters from home,
10 one from John, one from Seely, and one from Clara. Heard of the second great fire in Chicago.
11 Felt ashamed of our municipality generally and our fire department particularly. Walked out
12 upon the Boulevard with my family in the evening. The shops and the city were brilliantly
13 lighted, and things looked gay and dazzling.

14 July 17th. Ladies at dress makers. Afternoon visited Monceau Park (not very far from our
15 hotel). This little park (20 acres) is a perfect gem of artistic & rural beauty. Found some
16 magnificent mansions fronting this park. Here the architects seemed to let themselves out, as
17 many of the buildings are models of beauty, exquisite in design and ornamentation. All the
18 ornamental parts are set up in the rough. Then all the moldings and foliage are cut and left in
19 perfect condition.

20 June (sic) 18th. This morning visited the galleries of the Louvre to see the pictures. Spent 3 or 4
21 hours very profitably. The rooms are beautiful, finished in the highest style of decorative art,
22 and the numerous pictures were pleasing, but tiresome to any one not a connoisseur in the art.
23 Afternoon took a drive in the "Bois de Boulogne," a very extensive wooded park with splendid
24 carriage roads winding through it in every direction. Artificial lakes, grottoes, and cascades that
25 must have cost a mint of money to construct to so great extent, and most beautiful manner.
26 We enjoyed this drive very extensively.

27 19th. Sunday. Went to the St Augustine Church, a very elegant building with magnificent dome
28 & highly ornate interior finish. Also visited the Madeline church. The building is a magnificent
29 classic structure standing on an elevated platform 328 feet long and 138 feet wide approached
30 by a flight of steps across the entire front. The church is surrounded by 52 Corinthian columns
31 49 feet high and 66 inches diameter, supporting pediments in front and rear, the tympanums
32 full of sculptured figures in high relief. The frieze around the entire building is enriched with
33 sculptured ornaments. The interior is lighted by 3 cupolas, the ceiling forming 3 domes resting
34 on arches supported by Corinthian columns. There are numerous chapels formed by projecting
35 piers and columns. The ceiling is richly paneled and gorgeously painted. The whole effect is
36 very pleasing. There is a profusion of niches filled with statuary. The doors are of bronze, said
37 to be the largest in the world. In the evening walked through the Champs Elyses [Elysees] to
38 see what the Parisians do on Sunday evenings. Found thousands of little tables set out in the
39 street surrounded by men and women principally engaged in drinking wine. The place was

1 brilliantly lighted. Several concerts were in full blast. I made up my mind that the men here are
2 principally devoted to wine, women, and music.

3 July the 20th. This morning the dress making business was attended to. In the afternoon visited
4 Nortre Dame Cathedral. Examined it thoroughly outside and in, had all the drawers and cases
5 in the treasury opened for our inspection of the costly humbuggery required to run the
6 institution. Visited the cemetery Pere la Chaise. Found it crowded with tombs of every
7 possible kind and description and some impossible. Was much disappointed as I had great
8 expectations of this place.

9 July 21st. Started in a coach for Versailles [Versailles]. Stopped on our way at the celebrated
10 "Sevres Porcelain Works." Were shown through the establishment and examined a museum
11 filled with vases and wares of every description. They employ many of the cleverest artists of
12 France in drawing & painting on the porcelain. The concern is run by the government at a great
13 cost per annum, and the products given away as presents to the Nobility, so that there is no
14 sales room attached to the establishment. Otherwise I might have been obliged to ship home a
15 lot of crockery. Reloaded the coach and pursued our way to the Palaces of Versailles 12 miles
16 from Paris. I was amazed at the magnitude of the principal building being 1600 feet front (over
17 ¼ of a mile) and all other parts in keeping with this immensity. It is impossible with pen and ink
18 to give any thing like a true conception of the gorgeousness and extravagance of the interior.
19 One room, the Grand Gallery of Louis 14th is 242 feet long, 35 feet wide, and 43 feet high,
20 ceiling beautifully decorated, walls ornamented with Corinthian pilasters of Red Marble,
21 numerous niches with statues of Venus, Adonis, etc. The gardens, parks, and grounds cover an
22 immense tract and are fitted up with terraces, fountains, and every conceivable extravagance.
23 This monument of Recklessness and Licentiousness was built by Louis the 14th, commenced in
24 1660. Another palace called the Grand Trianon located a short distance from the principal
25 palace. This beautiful sample of a king had erected for the residence of his mistress, Madam de
26 Maintenon. A little further on we come to a third palace erected by Louis 15th for his mistress,
27 Madam du Barri [Barry]. Here these lecherous old villains expended about 200 million dollars
28 of the public money. This with similar follies was the exciting cause of the terrible revolution.
29 The people oppressed and exasperated beyond endurance rose in their might, endeavored to
30 exterminate Royalty by cutting off the heads, not only of the royal family, but every body else's
31 head that sympathized with them, and in their uncontrollable indignation went to cutting off
32 their own heads. For further description of this wonderful palace & surroundings see Harpers
33 Guide Book as I don't care to copy it much further at this time.

34 July 22nd. Doct Gregory called and went with us to the Palace of Luxembourg then to the
35 Pantheon and Jardin des Plantes, the palace built in 1612 noted for the interesting events that
36 have taken place within its walls. Louis the 16th occupied it up to the revolution of 1791. In
37 1795 sittings of the directory were held here, afterward occupied by the 1st Consul & Senate. It
38 is now used as a place of meeting for the senators of the Republic. There are a number of very
39 fine pictures, among them the Marriage of Napoleon 3rd, Napoleon 1st signing the treaty of

1 peace, etc. The garden of the palace is very beautiful. The Pantheon is a church with a fine
2 collonade front and a very imposing dome. The architect made a mistake in his foundations
3 and the dome settled so that he was obliged to build additional piers for its support. This event
4 so greatly mortified him that he threw himself headlong from the summit of the dome, as he
5 was determined to reach fame one way or another. After satisfying our curiosity, we walked to
6 the Botanical Garden having a Zoological department. After examining the flowers, plants, and
7 monkeys, we retired to our hotel in good order.

8 July 23rd. Drew £ 60 from Krauss & Co. Went with Mrs. Van in search of a dentist. Found one
9 from New York. Mrs. Van employed him. Girls went by themselves to have a second look at
10 the pictures in the Louvre.

11 24th. Went to see the panorama of the Siege of Paris. This is the most ingeniously arranged and
12 best performance in the line of panoramas that I have yet seen. The building in which it is
13 placed is a rotunda about 70 feet diameter, walls 20 feet high. The picture covers the entire
14 inside face of the wall, and is continuous. The spectators mount a stairs to an elevated circular
15 platform about 25 feet diameter. The roof is conical admitting the light at the eaves all round,
16 several feet inside of the wall, so that the light falls upon the picture at best advantage. The
17 picture is so perfectly painted that it is difficult for the spectator to image that he is inside of a
18 house. The sky, the fields, the forts, the City of Paris, soldiers, cannon, etc., appear precisely as
19 though you were out doors on an eminence observing those scenes in reality. We felt satisfied
20 that we were paid for our trouble, this time certainly. Also visited the palace of fine arts. The
21 building, situated on the Champs Elysees, is very commodious and well arranged for exposition.
22 Here I found competition designs for a very elegant church. There were about 70 different
23 plans, many of them superior specimens of architecture. Not knowing what the requirements
24 of the committee were, I could not select the most appropriate plan, but some of them carried
25 out would cost more than St Peters at Rome.

26 July 25th. Visited the "Hotel de Cluny" built in the 15th century. Nothing remarkable about the
27 building except its antiquity. It is now used as a Museum of Antiquities and has numerous
28 objects of interest to the antiquarian. The Palace of Thermes, an old Roman building said to
29 have been built 1500 years ago, forms a part of the foundations of the "Cluny." The only
30 perfect part of the old building is a large room called the Frigidarium, or chamber of cold baths.
31 Adjoining is a room called the Tepidarium, or a chamber for warm baths. In these old halls are
32 arranged a great many objects of Roman sculpture, among others altars erected to Jupiter, and
33 discovered in 1711 under the choir of Norte Dame Cathedral Paris. Leaving these old relics, we
34 walked to the tower of St Jacques (St. James), a very fine old Gothic structure of great height,
35 the only remaining part of an ancient church. We ascended to the top of this tower by a spiral
36 stairs of 294 steps. I had quit the use of tobacco several days, and my nerves were so unstrung
37 when I arrived at the top that I could not look over the parapet for several minutes. Made up
38 my mind that I would find a tobacco shop as soon as I reached terra firma. Had a fine birds eye
39 view of the city from our elevated position. We then visited the Palace of Justice, a very large

1 building containing court rooms and other rooms of public utility. The entrance vestibule is
2 very spacious, the ceiling groined, the arches supported on plain columns, the architecture
3 severely plain, but expressive of the purposes for which the building is designed. Adjoining this
4 building is the Sainte Chapelle commenced in 1245 in the reign of St Louis, 118 feet long, 55
5 wide, 139 feet high. The roof is surmounted by a lofty spire, spoiled with gold leaf. The interior
6 is gaudily painted. Relics here: the crown of thorns and a piece of the true cross.

7 26th. Sunday. Went to the Russian Church. Wasn't any service and couldn't understand it if
8 there was. So did the next best thing, gave the building a thorough examination. Built in the
9 form of a Greek cross, surmounted by a dome. Style of the architecture Moorish, bordering on
10 the outlandish. They have a very effectual way in Paris to tempt strangers, and others to do
11 naughty things on the Sabbath. For instance, the extraordinary water works at St. Cloud are
12 only put in operation a few times during the year, and then always on Sunday, and as St. Cloud
13 is 3 or 4 miles out of town, we hired a carriage and drove to St Cloud. The display of jets,
14 fountains, falls, and cataracts, where [were] far superior to any thing in this line that I ever
15 witnessed. One tremendous jet rose to the height of 140 feet.

16 July 27th. Visited the Hospital of Invalids and Napoleons Tomb. The Hospital is 612 feet front
17 founded by Louis 14th in 1670. The architecture is imposing and many parts interesting. The
18 church has no extraordinary feature except the Dome. Its height to the top of the cross is 323
19 feet. The dome is covered with gold leaf and is a very conspicuous object when a view of the
20 city is taken from any elevated position. The Tomb of Napoleon is in the cellar or crypt directly
21 under the centre of the dome. The surroundings are of the richest possible character. We
22 wandered around the premises until we were fully satisfied that it was all right and returned in
23 good season to our hotel.

24 July 28th. Took carriage to day for St. Denis 6 or 7 miles from Paris. The old cathedral at this
25 place is a building of great interest architecturally and historically. A chapel was built on this
26 spot in the 3rd century, and the body of St. Denis (a beheaded martyr) was buried in the chapel.
27 The present cathedral erected in 1130 is a good specimen of Gothic architecture and is of large
28 dimensions. It was the favorite resting place of the Kings & Queens of France from Dagobert,
29 580, down to the revolution in 1779. The revolutionists in their rage against royalty ordered all
30 the old kings & queens to be taken out of there and placed in a ditch which was done. They
31 also determined to level the cathedral with the ground, but it was saved by the interception of
32 Napoleon 1st. The bones were afterwards collected by order of Louis Phillipe and reinterred
33 under the high altar where they now remain. There are many beautiful monuments, some very
34 old and interesting. The shells of the Prussians greatly damaged the building during the last
35 war, but the damages have been repaired. In returning to Paris, we met a heavy shower of
36 rain, but having a calash top to our carriage, we escaped getting wet. The shower passed over
37 before we reached the city.

38 July 29th. Left by the 8 ¼ train for Fontainebleau, a royal palace situated 42 miles from Paris.
39 We found this the most interesting place we have yet visited. The present palace built by

Francis 1st in the 16th century, repaired by Henry 4th at a cost of half a million of dollars. Napoleon 1st spent twelve hundred thousand dollars on it, and Louis Phillipe had it completely restored at a great expense. In 1812, Napoleon kept Pope Pius the 7th prisoner here for 18 months, releasing him in 1813. We were shown the Popes rooms, rather a comfortable prison. Napoleon also imprisoned Charles 4th of Spain for 24 days. Queen Christine of Sweden had her secretary assassinated here by her orders. The great Conde died here at the age of 66. And in 1765 the only son of Louis 15th was poisoned here, etc., etc., too numerous to mention. The buildings are of brick with stone trimmings, nothing remarkable in its architecture. It is of great extent enclosing four different courts. It would take me a week to describe the interior, and then but a faint impression could be given of the extraordinary gorgeousness of all its parts. Many of the rooms are replete with historic interest. One of the principal rooms, the Gallerie de Francis 1st, built in 1530; by the King Francis, ceiling and wainscoting of oak, elaborately sculptured and profusely decorated with the inevitable gold leaf, the walls above the wainscoting frescoed. The rooms occupied by the Pope have the walls covered with Gobelin Tapestry. We were shown the room in which Napoleon signed his abdication. The table on which he wrote, is confined in a glass case, to keep the relic hunters knives away from it. The Throne Saloon (Salle du Trone) is a magnificent room, a chandelier of rock-crystal worth 25000 dollars. Also the table on which the Marshalls of France took the oath of allegiance. Adjoining is the boudoir of Marie Antoinette. We were shown the bed on which she was sleeping when the mob broke into the palace. We saw the spot where the Swiss body guard of Louis 16th were murdered while defending the palace against the infuriate mob. The theatre contained within the palace is a perfect little gem, oval in form, and fitted up in the greatest extremity of luxurious extravagance. Here we have the freshest remains of departed royalty. The rooms throughout are kept in perfect order just as they were left by the departed. A sad feeling crept over me as I looked upon that luxurious bed of Marie Antoinette and reflected upon the horror of a step from that couch to the ugly guillotine. I made up my mind that I would rather be an Architect than be King of France. The gardens of the palace are like all other French palace gardens, beautiful as money and French taste can make them. The forest of Fontainebleau contains 40000 acres and is 63 miles in circumference and has beautiful roads running through it in every direction. In our carriage we drove into the forest some 2 miles to a hill called the "Fort de l'Emperor." Here is a stone tower 70 or 80 feet high, ascended by spiral stone steps. From the top had a magnificent view of the forest and the surrounding country. Drove from this point to the rail way station and were home early in the evening.

July 30th. Drew £ 50 of Krauss & Co. Letters from James & Clara, then drove to the "Arch of Triumph," built by order of Napoleon in 1806 to commemorate the victories of the French, but particularly to commemorate the Little Corporal. It is 137 feet front and 68 feet deep, 152 feet high, a very beautiful structure of White marble. We mounted the stairway, 272 stairs, to the top, from which we took a final survey of Paris and its surroundings. The day was fine and, having our field glasses, we remained a long time resting our legs and gratifying our sense of sight. Bought of a picture peddler a number of photographs. Walked down the boulevard to

1 Park Monceau and listened to some very good music from a well trained band employed by the
2 government to soothe occasionally the ruffled spirits of the people.

3 July 31st. Today my birth day, "Hail Columbia." 63 and no better than I used to be. Julia not
4 able to go out. Mrs. Van and Martha out shopping. Marthas French of great service to us. She
5 has great confidence in her conversational powers and makes us believe she understands the
6 (to us) incomprehensible gibberish we hear on all sides. I bought a New York paper and sat
7 down to a long account of the Chicago Fire.

8 August 1st. Visited the "Expiatory Chapel." This building is a sort of monument standing in a
9 pretty little triangular park in the busiest part of the city. First is the portal and keepers lodge,
10 then an arcade 60 or 70 feet in length leading to the chapel. On each side of the arcade are
11 tombs in memory of the officers of the Swiss guard who were slain at Fontainebleau. The
12 chapel is a beautiful little octagonal building with a Doric portico facing the arcade. A broad
13 flight of steps lead up to the principal floor. The chapel is covered by a dome, contains a
14 beautiful altar in front of the entrance, and statues at the right and left of Louis 16th and his
15 Queen Marie Antoinette. In the crypt of the chapel is a stone marking the spot where the King
16 and Queen were buried, being at that time an old grave yard of the Madeline Church. A Mr.
17 Desclozeaux bought the place and converted it into an orchard in order to save the royal
18 remains from the fury of the populace. At the restoration these remains were removed to St
19 Denis and placed in the Tombs of the Kings. In the afternoon visited the manufactory of the
20 Gobelin Tapestry. This establishment like the Sevres Porcelain Works belongs to the
21 government, and the products are not for sale but are used in making presents to the royal
22 folks of the several nations. 3 or 4 men will work on a carpet for a room, say 25 feet square,
23 two entire years. The warp for the carpet is rolled up on two horizontal drums or rollers, one at
24 the ceiling and the other at the floor, making the threads vertical. The weavers sit in front of
25 these threads with innumerable small bobbins of different colored worsted. The pattern is
26 rolled up on a third drum over the heads of the workmen. It is surprising to see with what
27 dexterity these men will thrust those little bobbins in and out among the threads of the warp,
28 cutting off the threads of worsted so as to form a taffeta surface, which is afterwards trimmed
29 to a uniform surface resembling cut Brussels. The pictures formed in this way rival the most
30 celebrated paintings. They make another kind where the workmen stand on the opposite side
31 of the warp, and the surface is not cut velvet fashion, yet they form the pictures as perfect as in
32 the other method. After satisfying ourselves that every thing was going on prosperously, we
33 left. In the evening walked down to the Palais Royal, built by Cardinal Richelieu A.D. 1625. He
34 presented it to Louis 13th. Louis 14th gave further it to his nephew as a part of his marriage
35 portion. It had a theatre capable of holding 3000 spectators. Here the Cardinal delighted in
36 having his own productions performed. In 1781, the owner being largely in debt, the building
37 was turned into shops to increase his income. In 1793 it was confiscated and became national
38 property. In 1848 it was devastated by the mob. In 1858 it was put in complete repair and was
39 occupied by Prince Napoleon. The garden of the palace 700 feet long and 300 feet wide, has a
40 fountain in the centre and jeweler shops and other fancy establishments surrounding the entire

1 garden. It is adorned with many fine statues set around among the lime trees. The place
2 lighted up in the evening is bright and cheerful and is a great place of resort for strangers,
3 politicians, and other idlers. We think that was a pretty good days work for people seeking
4 rest. Mr. & Mrs. Culver very kindly offered to take home for our friends a lot of photographs,
5 being a group of our party.

6 August 2nd. Sunday. In for another case of necessity, we had already made one visit to
7 Versailles, but the "water works" which are let to play only 3 or 4 times a year, at a cost of
8 about \$2000 each time. The people were notified several days beforehand that on Sunday Aug
9 2nd this grand display would come off. And as we did not expect they would take some week
10 day to accommodate us, we submitted. And like Mahomet, when the Mountain would not
11 come to him, he went to the Mountain. We hired a carriage and went to Versailles. There
12 were jets and cascades in profusion. In one large pavilion about 150 feet diameter there were
13 some 30 fountains placed between the columns and so arranged that the jet would throw the
14 water exactly as high as the columns, the water then falling over exactly in the centre of each
15 arch. Was very beautiful. This pavilion located at some distance from the palace seemed
16 constructed for the purpose of cooling off the wine heated habitues of this luxurious place, but
17 the grand display came off about 5 o'clock at the basin of Neptune. This immense basin is a
18 semicircle having its diameter 500 feet long. In the centre was a statue of Neptune surrounded
19 with dolphins, tortoises, etc. The banks around the half circle are formed amphitheatre fashion
20 with grassy seats, and will accommodate 15 or 20 thousand spectators, and on this occasion it
21 was crowded. When the water was turned on, there was a murmur of approbation from that
22 vast crowd, and I said something myself, as I was perfectly enamored at the transcendent
23 beauty of the scene. There were so many vertical jets that they appeared like a forest of water.
24 That's all of that. We returned to our hotel not exactly satisfied that we had set a very good
25 example to these heathen.

26 August 3rd. Took carriage and drove to the Park of Vincennes through a section of the city we
27 had not previously visited. Found the park very extensive but not equal to many others already
28 explored. After our drive through the park, found it was past the hour for admitting strangers
29 into the castle, and having seen a great deal of that sort of thing, did not feel greatly
30 disappointed.

31 Aug. 4th. Preparing to leave Paris. Went to inquire about trains to Brussels. Rested the balance
32 of the day.

33 Aug. 5th. Went to the Hall of the "Legislative Body" to examine pictures, statuary & tapestry.
34 Large classic building. Light in picture gallery very poor. Tapestries very fine. Returned home
35 ready to leave.

36 Aug. 6th. An old Connecticut school marm traveling alone had been to Egypt & Jerusalem.
37 Thought she would make a good Dragoman. Finding we were going to Brussels on same train
38 with herself, impudently attached herself to our party. She was a long, narrow, sharp built

1 concern, and went by the name of Crane whenever I spoke of her. Left Paris for Brussels at
2 7:20 a.m. and arrived at this interesting city about 2 p.m. Put up at the Mangelle Hotel,
3 beautiful location and very pleasant rooms. Rested balance of this day. Old Crane and the girls
4 went off on a ramble. The old critter had a passion for laces and made a bee line for the shops.
5 The girls caught the fever from the old lady and went entirely delirious on the subject of laces
6 and imagined that was their principal business in making the trip to Europe. They kept their
7 purchases out of the sight of old Fogies.

8 Aug. 7th. Hired a carriage this morning to visit the field of Waterloo, 12 miles from Brussels. Old
9 Lady would like to go and pay her share of the ride. Couldn't refuse very well, but shall next
10 time. She couldn't ride backwards. Neither could I. The carriage was roomy, the old lady, Mrs.
11 Van and I on the back seat. I thought the 5th party was narrow, but she carried greater breadth
12 of beam than I at first gave her credit for, and the thing was rather uncomfortable. Arriving on
13 the field, first visited the Chateau of Hougomont [Hougoumont], an old farm house which was
14 one of the bloodiest places on that bloody field. Then went to the Mound in the centre of the
15 field. This mound of earth 200 feet high is an immense cone (artificial) piled up on a slightly
16 rising field. On top of this is a massive pedestal of granite of large dimensions surmounted by a
17 colossal bronze lion with a great round ball under his right paw. 272 cut granite steps lead from
18 the base of the mound to the top, having a firm iron rail on both sides. We all went up, and our
19 guide pointed out the spots where such and such things happened on that terrible day of June
20 1815. At the foot of the mound found a tolerable hotel and had our dinner, then drove around
21 the field to look at some very fine monuments erected on spots where some noted persons fell
22 on that eventful day. We hired our guide at a little town on the edge of the field. After
23 dropping him on our return, I took a seat with the driver, leaving Mrs. Van and the 5th party
24 plenty of room on that back seat. We drove through a very beautiful park in the south east
25 suburb of the city.

26 Aug. 8th. Hired a carriage and drove around to all places of interest in the city. The Cathedral of
27 St Gudule, commenced in 1010, the outside restored in 1843. The front is flanked with well
28 proportioned towers of great height, Gothic style of architecture. The stained glass windows
29 are the best we have yet seen, which is saying much for them. The interior is very imposing
30 with magnificent altars and many fine paintings. The pulpit is very remarkable, carved figures,
31 life size, representing the expulsion from paradise, a tree supporting the pulpit, the virgin and
32 child with a cross bruising the serpents head. The grouping is very effective and must have
33 been a very costly affair. The grand old Town Hall with its lofty tower is a very imposing and
34 interesting structure. The New Exchange building, or Bourse as it is called, is the finest building
35 architecturally considered that I have seen since I left home. I do not propose to describe
36 buildings in detail, but refer to the photographs which I procure of all the principal buildings
37 and places of interest visited by us and which will give a better idea of what we have seen than
38 any written description can convey. We saw the celebrated Manikin fountain, a small bronze
39 figure of a naked boy. The fountain issues in a small stream in the natural way [referring to the
40 youth's continual "urination"] and is very amusing. It is a very old boy and highly prized by the

Brussels folks. Visited the zoological gardens. Drove through the boulevards. There are many fine buildings in this city. The Royal Park is very grand, surrounded by the Royal Palace and other public buildings in varied and pleasing style of architecture.

Aug. 9th. Sunday. Walked about the city. Visited the botanic garden, large and very interesting. The Rue Royal is a beautiful street of great length lined on each side with the best buildings of the city. There are many interesting monuments.

Aug. 10th. Left Brussels at 10:45 a.m. and arrived at Cologne 6:15 p.m., a long and tedious ride. Put up at the Hotel Du Nord. Very pleasant rooms. Girls went out to see the cathedral which is close by our hotel. Mrs. Van and I preferred an easy chair for the remainder of this day.

Aug. 11th. 3 months to day since we left home. Martha not feeling well to day. Mrs. Van, Julia, and I visited the interiors of the great cathedral. It is very grand, but the ceiling is so very high in the nave that it gives every thing the appearance of being long drawn out, the roof seemingly on stilts. Aside from this disproportion, it is very like other cathedrals, built in Gothic style. For exterior, see photographs accompanying this Journal. After dinner Martha feeling better. We took carriage and visited many places of interest. Our driver, speaking German interpreted by Julia, visited the Church of St. Ursula. Here we were shown the bones of 11000 virgins who with Ursula were on a pilgrimage to Rome, met the savage Huns who killed the whole party, and there are their remains walled up in niches and forming a plinth of bones around the interior of the church about 4 feet high. Occasionally an opening is left in the wall fitted with glass through which you see these revolting remains. Also in the sacristy, or Golden Chamber, are numerous skulls & shin bones, one said to be the veritable Ursula skull. Here we were shown one of the Jars used at the marriage of Canan, held the water which Christ turned into wine. Also 2 of the thorns from the original crown. Of course I do not take any stock in this nonsense. Yet the fellow that showed us the relics looked as solemn as if he believed every word of it. Visited St. Peters church. Here is a fine picture by Rubens of the crucifixion of St Peter with his head downward. The picture is large and forms the altar piece. It is hung on pivots at top & bottom. On the reverse is a copy of the original picture exhibited here to prove that Rubens was the best painter of the two. Who the hindmost fellow was I don't know.

Aug. 12th. Left Cologne at 9 a.m. on steamboat for a trip up the Rhine to this place Mayence where we arrived at 9 p.m. Found pleasant rooms at the Hotel d' Angleterre (English Hotel). We had a very pleasant day on the river. The scenery on either side is picturesque and in many parts grand and imposing. The old castles give additional interest, not only on account of their picturesqueness, but of their history. They were simply dens for robbers who sallied out and levied black mail on all travelers on the Rhine.

August 13th. Visited a very old cathedral built of brick, remarkable for nothing but its antiquity. Took carriage and drove through the city. Were shown the house in which Gutenberg (inventor of printing) formerly resided, also his monument. Went to a very beautiful public garden in the northern suburbs of the city, then through a very extensive park in the southern suburbs,

1 beautifully laid out in walks & drives. This park adjoined the fortifications. As we passed the
2 parade ground, saw many companies of soldiers out for drill. About one half the men in the
3 city are soldiers.

4 Aug. 14th. Left Mayence for Heidelberg at 10:20 a.m. Arrived at our destination at 1 o'clock
5 p.m. Put up at the Prince Charles Hotel. Very pleasant rooms assigned us. After dinner hired
6 carriage. Rode several miles, in a round about way, to get on top of a mountain bounding the
7 south side of the town. Finally arrived at the summit where we found a high tower called the
8 Kings Stool (or konigs stool). We went up inside the tower, which being far above the tree tops,
9 we had a grand view of the surrounding county and an isometrical view of the town, which
10 seemed to [be] directly under us. After satisfying ourselves that every thing was all right, as far
11 as we could see, we descended and took to our carriage. The driver locked the wheels and
12 went down the hill by a steep road, being a short cut to the city. A sudden shower of rain
13 obliged us to close the carriage. We stopped at a half-way house along side of the road and
14 found a large company sitting round small tables drinking wine. We surrounded one of the
15 tables and thought we would go through the motions of the others. Called for "Limonade
16 Gaseous," served in bottles and being effervescent, the corks have the genuine pop of a first
17 class champagne. And if you don't give the order in too loud a tone, your neighbors will think
18 you indulge in costly brands of wine. From a pavilion at the side of this "Café" we had a very
19 fine view of the old castle of Heidelberg which we intend to visit to morrow. Arrived at our
20 hotel in good order in time for Table d' Hote dinner (6 o'clock). I have been schooled by
21 Martha to pronounce this "Tabldote." Don't like it so late in the day.

22 Aug. 15th. Took a stroll this morning through this queer old town. I say through because it is
23 built between two high mountains on the banks of the river Neckar and has but one street
24 about 2 miles long with a few very short branch streets. There is nothing about the
25 architecture of the buildings worthy of mention except the grand old castle located about half
26 way up the mountain on the south side of the town. After breakfast, we started on foot for the
27 castle up a steep paved roadway with stone benches at convenient distances which we found
28 were very acceptable institutions, as we found the walk considerable of an undertaking.
29 Arriving at the castle, we were well paid for our labor. It is an immense building, much of it in
30 ruins, but many of the walls are still standing entire[ly], and a large portion is under the old
31 roof. It is built of red sand stone with immense round towers at the angles, has many fantastic
32 gables. Style of architecture peculiar. Is much ornamented with figures and foliage in bas-
33 relief. The whole structure is of the most massive character and has stood the test of time
34 wonderfully well. We were shown in one of the cellars the celebrated "tun of Heidelberg," an
35 enormous cask that will hold 300000 bottles of wine (if the bottles are not too large). The
36 staves of the cask are 6 inches thick, perhaps 18 feet long, the cask on the bilge, some 12 or 14
37 feet diameter. It rests in an ornamental frame of cut stone work. A second cask was shown
38 similar to this, but 1/3 less dimensions, set up in same manner. After examining the chapel and
39 as much of the interior as we could gain access to, we walked about the grounds which are
40 pretty extensive considering they are on the slope of a very steep hill. The cost and labor of

1 arranging such a park must have been enormous. Found the walk back to our hotel much
2 easier than the ascent. Julia and Martha received a lecture on the danger and impropriety of
3 Sky Larking and running down hill. Left at 12:30 and arrived at Strasbourg at 5 p.m. Stopped at
4 Hotel Maison Rouge, meaning red house. Nothing extraordinary about this hotel.

5 Aug. 16th Sunday. Went to church at the cathedral. This grand old building was commenced in
6 1277 and finished in 1601. I don't believe the original architect lived to see it finished – the
7 design by Erwin of Steinbach, assisted by his son & daughter Sabina. The busts of these
8 architects and the architectress are set up in the building. The tower is remarkable as being the
9 highest in the world, 468 feet. Gothic style of architecture. Here we remained until 12 o'clock
10 to see the performance of the automatic clock, a wonderful piece of mechanism stands in the
11 south transept. Beside showing the time of day, gives the place of the earth in the Zodiac, the
12 phases of the moon, the rising & setting of the sun, moon, and principal planet. In fact is a
13 regular almanac, but the performance each day at noon collects a large crowd of strangers to
14 see the Didos. First a little cherub hits a small bell to give warning. Then the figures of the
15 twelve apostles pass round in front of a sitting figure, representing the Savior. Each apostle in
16 passing bows to the Savior. As soon as Peter comes in sight, a very good imitation of a rooster
17 flaps his wings and crows very naturally. This the rooster repeats 3 times. Peter vanishes
18 behind the curtain. The clock strikes 12. A figure with an hour glass in his hand reverses the
19 glass and the fun is over. This clock was invented about 300 years ago. In the afternoon visited
20 a beautiful park where a military band gave us some good music, and plenty of it. Our hotel
21 fronts a large public square in the centre of which is a fine monument to some great general.
22 The north side of the square is the remains of a museum building destroyed by the bombs of
23 the Prussians in the late war. This place sustained great injury from the bombardment. The
24 cathedral especially was hit several times.

25 Aug. 17th. Very early this morning was aroused from my bed by a great clatter going on in the
26 public square. Got up and found 4 regiments of soldiers forming in two immense columns,
27 rigged up in marching order. In a short time the music struck up a marching time and away
28 they went. It was a pleasing sight to see such a mass of men so thoroughly drilled that their
29 movements seemed as though they were operated by machinery. Mrs. Van being much
30 annoyed by some old teeth roots, we went in search of a dentist. Found one. Sent for a doctor
31 to administer chloroform. Never saw any one under its influence before. Had a good mind to
32 lick the doctor for poisoning my wife, but kept still to see how it would result. The dentist
33 appeared to be the master of the situation. The difficulties were soon removed, and Mrs. Van
34 recovered from the stupor and was led to a comfortable bed in an adjoining room. Martha
35 remained with her, and I walked out for stroll about the city. Returned in a couple of hours and
36 found her all right. Returned to our hotel for dinner. Left in the afternoon for Basle, where we
37 arrived at 5:40 p.m. and put up at the Hotel Trois-Rois (three kings).

38 Aug. 18th. Drove about town and visited the cathedral. The city is a beautiful place. Many very
39 fine private mansions surrounded by beautiful gardens. Drew £ 60 of Passavant & Co.

1 Aug. 19th. Left at 10 a.m. for Neuhausen where we arrived at 1:15 p.m. and obtained pleasant
2 rooms at the Sweizerhof Hotel. This house is a mile from the town on the right bank of the
3 Rhine elevated about 1000 feet above the river facing the magnificent falls of the Rhine. From
4 our window we have a view of the river for half a mile above the falls. The beautiful rail road
5 bridge crosses the river immediately above the cataract, the piers standing in the rapids. The
6 cars in passing south over the bridge enter a tunnel on the south side, passing under the old
7 castle mounted on the rocky point 500 feet above the road. This castle though very old is kept
8 in repair and is inhabited. We propose to pay it a visit before we leave this place. The falls are
9 divided into three tremendous cataracts by two small rocky islands. On the summit of one of
10 these is a small pavilion and a flight of steps cut in the rock for crazy sightseers to climb up to
11 the top so that they may have a perpendicular view of the foaming waters around them. The
12 landscape as it appears from the window of our room cannot be excelled, the beautiful gardens
13 and park in the foreground, then the Rhine with its rapids and dashing cataracts, the rocky cliffs
14 of the opposite bank, the old castle. The river turns almost at right angles on its issue from the
15 fall and keeps in view for more than a mile. Beyond are hills & valleys, the horizon bounded by
16 the fantastic snowy peaks of the alps forms a picture of unsurpassed loveliness. So much for
17 my first impressions. We shall see. We took a walk down the zigzag paths of the garden to the
18 margin of the river. A little to the south is a dense wood. The girls wanted to take a ramble
19 through them, but Mrs. Van suggested the probability of wolves, which set the girls into such a
20 fit of laughing that they gave up the trip from exhaustion.

21 Aug. 20th. Were ferried across the river in a row boat and landed at the foot of the rocky
22 precipice on which the old castle is located. We found paths cut in the face of the cliff leading
23 up and around the same. Taking the path around the base of the cliff, we found a room where
24 rubber garments were furnished those who wished to follow the gallery to the cataract. Mrs.
25 Van and I declined, but Martha & Julia wanted to go where any one else had ever dared. The
26 cloaks were placed upon them, and they passed along the gallery under a constant shower of
27 spray to the wet pavilion. They were not long in satisfying their curiosity and in a few seconds
28 returned wetter, if not wiser, than before. We now ascended to a cave cut in the rock directly
29 above the foaming waters but out of reach of the spray. Here we had a near view of this
30 mighty, foaming, roaring, tumbling, and any-thing-else-you-can-think of cataract. Clambered to
31 the summit of the hill and found a museum & picture gallery arranged in the old castle and a
32 greedy peddler anxious for our Francs. Bought some trifling articles and left disgusted with old-
33 castles-modernized. Returned to the ferry and recrossed the river. After dinner walked to
34 Neuhausen to find a doctor as Mrs. Van had been troubled for several days with a blotchy
35 cutaneous difficulty which kept her in a state of uneasiness constantly. Got a prescription and
36 started home to try its virtues. Crossed over the rail road bridge and back merely to extend our
37 walk and have a nearer view of the rapids. The water was very clear and as it rushed over the
38 rocks impetuously under the bridge, the idea would creep into the mind, "Suppose these piers
39 should give way." After continuing our stroll over the grounds surrounding the hotel, we
40 returned to our quarters for the night.

1 Aug. 21st. The girls went off this morning for a ramble in the woods to find the Ruins of
2 Neubourg Castle. They failed to find it and would have been bothered to find the hotel, but
3 luckily found an old man who kindly piloted them to the ruin and showed them the path out of
4 the woods. I took a stroll alone through the woods and found the ruin. It must have been built
5 many hundred years since as it was nearly level with the ground and overgrown with trees and
6 brush. On two sides, however, the foundations reaching down into a deep ravine made a very
7 respectable appearance. After dinner we all took a walk through the same wood as Mrs. Van
8 wanted to see all that the rest of us had seen. Revisited the ruin and in trying to return by a
9 new route had a jolly time descending a steep hill to the main road at the foot where the girls
10 say auntie sat down and slid.

11 Aug. 22nd. Left by rail at 9 a.m. on an excursion to the city of Constance some 30 miles east on
12 the Lake of Constance. I had telegraphed for a 2 horse carriage to meet us at the Constance
13 depot. Found it all right. Drove some 7 miles east to the Island of Minau. This island is a short
14 distance from the main land, in the lake, and is connected with the shore by a causeway and
15 well constructed iron bridge. Some nobleman has built a beautiful mansion on the island and
16 made a sort of paradisaical place of the entire grounds. It was very elegant and the views
17 across the lake, of the mountains, towns & villas were equal to any thing we had yet seen, and
18 slightly different. We found our ride a charming one. Returned to Constance to dinner. Visited
19 the church where John Huss was tried & condemned and saw many other places of interest,
20 but had not time to go to the spot where he suffered martyrdom (about a mile out of town).
21 We took a steamboat and returned to Schaufhausen where we found our hotel omnibus, and
22 after a ride of 3 miles, were safely in our rooms.

23 23rd. Sunday. Had English church service in our hotel, about 70 persons present. Made
24 preparations for leaving in the morning and rested the balance of this day.

25 Aug. 24th. Left for Zurich at 9:30 and arr. at this place at 11:30. A pleasant ride of 2 hours.
26 Engaged rooms at Hotel "Baur au Lac." Finely situated on the margin of the lake with a
27 splendid little park between the house & lake for the guests exclusively. Expected letters here,
28 but found none. We begin to think our friends in America forget a fellow very quick. Visited
29 cathedral, old and ugly. Extended our walk. Architecture generally of inferior character, except
30 on one new street where a number of new bildings in Renaissance and improved Italian would
31 do credit to any city. The rail road depot is a fine structure and very imposing. The materials of
32 the new buildings are of greyish green sandstone, a beautiful tint, and very fine grain.

33 Aug. 25th. Went on steamboat for a ride over the length of Lake Zurich. Returned early this
34 afternoon. Had a fine day. Found the country beginning to be decidedly lumpy. The banks of
35 the lake picturesque and, as the school girls say, charming.

36 26th. Left for Lucerne 9:38 a.m. Arrived at 11 o'clock. Fine scenery on the trip. Secured rooms
37 fronting the lake at the Grand National, a very good hotel. Hired carriage. Went to see the
38 famous Lion cut in the side of a sandstone cliff as a monument to the memory of the Swiss

Guard who laid down their lives in defense of Louis 16th at Fontainebleau. The figure of the lion is 18 feet long. It is excellently well done. See photograph. Then drove 8 or 9 miles up a valley and along the base of Mount Pilatus to the south branch of the lake and returned by a different road to the city. Delightful. I am obliged to use these expressions of gladness because I don't know exactly what else to say, and as our gladness is continuous, these "delightfuls" & "beautifuls" will be found in the journal plentiful. Girls walked out to look at carved wood – gimcrackery.

Aug. 27th. Strolled about the city this morning. Afternoon left by steamboat for Visnau where we got on board the cars for the summit of the Righi [Rigi], a high mountain 12 miles N.E. of Lucerne. The rail way is an inclined plane rising 25 feet in a 100. The locomotive is furnished with a cog wheel, the teeth of which passing into a continuous rack placed between the rails. The train is forced up the hill. It is rather an exciting ride, and but few persons can relax their muscles entirely. ~~T~~they are generally kept strained ready for a jump in case of necessity, which you instinctively look for every moment. There is a very good hotel on the summit, and having telegraphed for rooms, found them ready for us, and it was well that I did so, for the next man behind me was informed that there was not a vacant room in the house, but to wait awhile [and] he would see what could be done. I counted 250 persons at table. Every one of them came up to see the sun set and rise and were disappointed at both ends on account of clouds which persistently kept in the horizon, while there was clear sky and plenty of room for them overhead. We had however a splendid view of the mountains, their tops covered with snow, the valleys & lakes at our feet. A small steamer on one of the lakes, almost directly under us, looked like a small batteau, and did not appear to move, although it was running at full speed. The morning was cool; shawls and overcoats were in demand. Every body got up at the sound of the alpine horn, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour before sunrise, but they might as well got up at midnight so far as seeing the sun was concerned. Every body felt satisfied when they were comforted by the appearance of Old Settlers that 3 mornings out of 4 were just like this.

Left soon after breakfast, 28th, and were lowered down the hill, same way we came up. Takes 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the trip of 7 miles. The train goes but little faster than a man can walk. Boarded our steamer and were soon back at Lucerne. £ 70 of S. Erselli [?]. Went at 6 o'clock to hear the organ concert at the cathedral said to be one of the best organs in existence. It would imitate the human voice so perfectly that it was difficult to believe that you heard an organ only. Again it would imitate a thunder storm, and by thunder it did it well. The organist was well acquainted with the instrument, and for an hour kept it a going to our intense delight and gratification. The girls had slipped off from us so that Mrs. Van and I enjoyed the concert by ourselves.

29th. Walked about town, examined old paintings in the bridges. Didn't amount to much except that they were old. Girls take a long ride on the lake in a row boat.

30th. Sunday. Church service in our hotel, very handy and interesting. The service conducted in English. Took a walk for a last look at this interesting city. The hotels are the finest buildings in

1 it, and they would hold their own in appearance compared with Chicago hotels. The National
2 particularly is a remarkably good piece of architecture.

3 31st. Sent our trunks forward over the Brunig pass to Interlacken. Left at 10 a.m. by steamer.
4 Passed over the entire length of the lake to Fluelen. We had seen so much lake scenery that we
5 did not know but we were pretty well satisfied on that point, but the mountains were so much
6 ahead of any thing we had yet seen, that we submitted to the increase of our pleasure and
7 enjoyment. Passed the renowned Tells Chapel just before reaching Fluelen. Hired a carriage at
8 Fluelen to take us to the Rhone Glacier. The road leads S.E. up the valley of the Reuss. We
9 stopped to dine at the little town Amstag [Amsteg]. After dinner continued on our winding way
10 over a very good road to the town of Andermatt where we arrived after dark, but not too late
11 for supper.

12 Sept. 1st. As it was dark when we crossed the Devils Bridge last night, we concluded to have a
13 look at it by day light, and being only one mile back, we made the visit before breakfast. The
14 valley of the Reuss which we ascended yesterday is not surpassed by any other in Switzerland
15 for desolate grandeur and magnificent scenery. Culminating at the Devils bridge, here the
16 frightful precipices are not only perpendicular, but a little more so as they overhang the narrow
17 road at their base. Here the river Reuss plunges and leaps in a most fearful manner in its
18 descent through the narrow gorge. The bridge is of granite in one arch 70 feet high. How they
19 ever got a foothold to do the work would seem almost a mystery. As soon as the road crosses
20 the bridge, it passes through a tunnel, but how they passed before the tunnel was bored is the
21 question. Now here would be a tight place for two armies to meet and have a fight. Yet in
22 1799 the French attacked the Austrians, and after a desperate fight drove them from the pass.
23 Then Suworow at the head of 25000 Russians drove out the French at a great sacrifice of life.
24 After breakfast we resumed our journey along a broad level valley between very high
25 mountains. The river runs quietly by our side and gives no intimation of the terrific bobbery it
26 will kick up in going a few rods farther. This plain was at one time the bed of a large lake, and
27 when the waters cut their way through the mountain, forming the gorge at the Devils Bridge,
28 the bed was left high and dry for pasturage and the town of Andermatt. Pursuing our course up
29 the valley, we passed through two very old and dilapidated towns with ruins of Roman towers
30 that looked as antique as the rocks on which they stood. The road now commenced to ascend
31 the mountain in long windings and zig-zags, and soon we had a beautiful view of the Reuss
32 Valley from the glacier (which form the fountain head of the river) back to Andermatt which we
33 had left hours ago. About 12 o'clock arrived at the summit of the Furea Pass [Furka?], where
34 we found a hotel and stopped for dinner. Walking a few rods from the hotel on the ridge of the
35 pass, a splendid panorama of the high alps beyond the Rhone glacier came into view. Sat down
36 to enjoy the inspiring grandeur of the scene. When the clang of the dinner bell disturbed our
37 musings and reminded us that sight seeing exhausts and dining refreshes the creature, we did
38 not wait for the second bell. After 2 hours rest we were on our way to descend the western
39 slope of the pass down into the Rhone valley. In a short time we came in sight of the Rhone
40 Glacier. The road turns at the edge of the glacier and descends the valley in windings & zig-zags.

1 We reached the hotel "Glacé du Rhone" and discharged our carriage. The hotel is nearly 1 mile
2 from the edge of the glacier, and we set out on foot to have a near view of it. We saw some
3 persons in the distance walking across the ice, and as it did not appear very difficult by their
4 movements, we tried it. I did not venture very far as I found what appeared to be a smooth
5 surface were round hummocks, separated from others by wide and deep cracks or fissures
6 forming very respectable chasms of perfectly solid blue ice. I had no notion of slipping down
7 into one of those beautiful cracks, so I incontinently backed out -- but the girls would go
8 farther, but finally getting a little frightened, they were glad to get back, sometimes sitting
9 down and hitching along until they reached a safe place on terra-firma. An enterprising
10 individual had excavated a grotto in the edge of the glacier and charged ½ a franc each for
11 entering it. We all went in. A short passage led into a room about 12 feet square and 8 feet
12 high, all of which had been cut in the solid ice. There was plenty of light to see to get around.
13 The whole thing was ingenious and worth our trouble to see. I thought it would make a first
14 class refrigerator. The "Mer de Glace," a glacier near Chamonix being vastly more extensive
15 than this, and as I purpose to visit that, will not now stop to describe this one more particularly.

16 Sept. 2nd. Rose early this morning and had breakfast. Hired horses and guides last night to
17 cross the Grimsel Pass and down the valley of the Aare to Imhof. Mounting our horses, we
18 started up a steep zig-zag trail. The turnings & windings of the path gave us fine views of the
19 Rhone Valley. 1 ½ hours of very steep climbing brought us to the summit of the pass. From this
20 point 2000 feet above the valley of the Rhone, we had an extensive view of the jagged peaks of
21 the high alps and the glaciers that form the sources of the River Aare. We commenced our
22 descent. We soon come to a small black lake called Todtensee (Lake of the dead). In the
23 summer of 1799 it was used as a burial place by the French and Austrians. The Austrians
24 fortified this pass, but it was taken by the French. It must have been a rough and tumble fight
25 on these steep slopes and break-neck precipices. The path soon becomes so steep that we
26 dismounted as the road was paved with smooth stones and the horses were liable to slip and
27 fall at any moment, and in such a case it would be difficult to tell very exactly how many feet
28 down a fellow would go before he had a chance to alight. We soon reached the Grimsel
29 Hospice, about 900 feet below the summit of the pass. Stopped a few minutes and got some
30 refreshment. We now reach the river Aare coming down a valley from the west. We follow the
31 banks of this stream or torrent to Imhof. Soon after leaving the Hospice, the river passes into a
32 savagely wild and very narrow gorge, the bridle path formed on the slight projections of the
33 rocks, and in many places is a mere shelf hewn into the rocky wall. Arriving at Handeck, we
34 dismounted and walked down the revine to get a look at the celebrated falls. The river is here
35 wedged in between the walls of rock and the space is so narrow that it is obliged to turn up
36 edgewise to get through. We cross the chasm on a foot bridge to a sort of pavilion formed on
37 top of a projecting rock. A rude railing is fixed around the edge of the pavilion to prevent
38 accident. A splendid view of the fall is obtained from this point. The water of the Aare rushes
39 from the narrow gorge and makes an unbroken plunge of 250 feet into the dark abyss. The
40 Erlenbach, a fine stream, precipitates its waters into the Aare, so near to the first mentioned

1 fall that the waters of the two rivers meet before they reach the bottom. The effect is
2 indescribably grand and pleasing. Again upon our horses, we pursued our winding way down a
3 steep path about 4 feet wide, a strange horse under us, & death at our side. A short distance
4 farther Mrs. Van's horse stumbled and fell upon the path. She fortunately sat facing the land
5 side of the trail, leaped from her saddle to the ground sustaining a slight scratch on one knee
6 and a heavy jar on the nervous system generally. Mrs. Van in a short time was ready to
7 remount her horse. We soon reached Guttannen, a small village where we stopped for dinner.
8 After a good rest, Martha and Julia started off on foot leaving us to overtake them at our
9 leisure. The truth is the girls were jaded and worn, thought riding on horseback was fun in a
10 horn [?]. We overhauled the girls in about an hour. They were willing to rest awhile, even on a
11 saddle. Soon after in crossing a bridge, Julia's horse became frightened, reared and threw her
12 violently to the floor of the bridge, cutting a small gash in the back of her head which bled
13 profusely. A farmers hut being close at hand, we bathed her head with cold water, stopped the
14 bleeding. After half an hour we were all once more in the saddle, having 6 or 7 miles farther
15 yet to go. Passing some of the wildest parts of the valley, the scene was sublime no doubt, but
16 we had received so many shocks to our nerves this trip, that we were not in a frame of mind to
17 appreciate it and were much pleased when we arrived at the pleasant little hotel at Imhof.
18 Here we remain over night. Sent messenger to Meyringen [Meiringen] for some arnica and
19 sticking plaster to repair damages to Julia's head. Returned before bed time and Mrs. Van soon
20 had the wound dressed and patched.

21 Sept 3rd. Left in a carriage for Brienz at the head of a lake of that name. This part of the trip
22 was very interesting, particularly the soft cushions of the carriage and the very smooth road
23 over which we traveled. Took steamer at Brienz & passing the celebrated Geisbach [Geissbach]
24 falls we were soon landed 2 or 3 miles from Interlaken, to which place we were conveyed by
25 rail in a few minutes. Found pleasant rooms at the Hotel des Alps where we propose to have a
26 few days rest. Found our trunks had arrived all right from Lucerne.

27 Sept. 4th. Wrote letters home. Girls out for a walk. Old folks in easy chairs.

28 Sept. 5th. Mrs. Van procured stout shoes for herself and the girls. Took a walk through the
29 town. Remembering that this is my "little Pet's" birthday, I found some pink tinted letter paper
30 and wrote her a birth day letter in rhyme.

31 Sept. 6th. Sunday. Mrs. Van sprained her ankle going down stairs to her breakfast this morning.
32 She thought it was a slight matter and went to church, but could scarcely walk back to the
33 hotel. The ankle became very painful, and I feared it would be a long time before she would be
34 able to walk.

35 Sept. 7th. Made an excursion to Latterbrunnen [Lautterbrunnen]. Hired carriage and guide. Left
36 at 10 a.m. Ride to Latterbrunnen very good. Nothing remarkable. At Latterbrunnen had a good
37 view of the Strauback fall. Bears a strong resemblance to the bridal veil of Yosemite Valley.
38 After dinner at Latterbrunnen hired 3 horses for the girls and I and three Chaise a Porteurs to

1 carry Mrs. Van in a sedan chair up and down the path of the mountains as her lame ankle
2 prohibited her riding or walking. We left for a trip to Murren, a village high upon the mountain
3 side where we arrived safely after 2 hours climbing. Here we had the most extensive view of
4 the Monarch mountains. Certainly there is no grand name or expression that can convey to any
5 one not a beholder of the scene any conception of its grandeur and sublimity. The Jung-frau at
6 our left, the Eiger, Monk [Monch], & Silberhorn, the Mittaghorn and 7 or 8 other horns forming
7 a grand amphitheatre of the tallest kind of Alps, with 8 or 10 glaciers in one view. We were
8 satisfied fully. Had a lunch and left to return to Latterbrunnen to spend the night. The hotel
9 was rather a shaky affair, but the best they had. Mrs. Van and I slept soundly & rested well.
10 Not so with the girls. They found a nest of fleas in each of their beds which kept them in a state
11 of activity during the night.

12 Sept. 8th. After breakfast we started to cross the Wegern Alp [Wengen?]. Girls and I mounted
13 on horses, Mrs. Van in her sedan chair. Same arrangements as on the previous afternoon. The
14 trail was fearfully steep the 1st hour. The second hour the path was not quite so unreasonable.
15 Arriving at the summit, we have the Jung-frau directly in front of us. From this point of view,
16 this great mountain shows itself to best advantage. The glaciers on its side sent down two
17 avalanches of ice and snow, much to our edification. Noise of the fall resembled distant
18 thunder, but the show did not amount to much compared with our expectations. Passing on
19 toward Grindelwald, we stopped for dinner at Little Schiedeck [Kleine Schiedegg], the summit
20 of the ridge. From this point the view was very extensive and exceedingly interesting.
21 Afternoon renewed our journey to descend the mountains to Grindelwald. After proceeding a
22 short distance, and while descending a steep place in the rocky trail, my horse slipped up and
23 came down, kerwallop, on his stomach which landed me on the side of the path without the
24 least damage. Mrs. Van, being just ahead of my horse on the trail, heard the noise and, looking
25 round to see what was the matter, forgot her lame ankle for the moment as she sprang from
26 her chair to come to my assistance. The road soon became so steep that the girls and I
27 dismounted and walked to the foot of the mountain. Remounting, rode up to the hotel. Paid
28 off our horses and guides and took carriage 14 miles back to Interlacken. At Grindelwald we
29 have a close view of the Wetterhorn and its tremendous glacier. Arriving at our hotel about 7
30 o'clock, rec'd a letter from sister Beulah informing us of the new arrival at Rushville _____
31 _____ (sic).

32 Sept. 9th. Wrote Deacon Hoard to day. Rec'd letter from Clara. Rested balance of this day.

33 Sept. 10th. Walked about town. They have a wine drinking establishment here called the
34 Kursall, having a splendid garden attached. The fun of this place is that it is not self supporting,
35 and the strangers at the hotels are impudently taxed from 10 to 20 cents per day to support a
36 drinking-shop and beer garden. I believe I shortened my stay at this place on this account.
37 Hundreds for fun, but nary cent for Tribute. Some old antiquity said something like that, and I
38 agree with him.

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

1 leave for Martigny until 4. So we walked back along the shore of the lake 1 ½ miles to the
2 castle and explored it thoroughly. Here the savage old dukes, in past times, had an opportunity
3 to give full vent to their malignity on the heads of their captive rivals. Saw the dungeons and
4 the pillar where Bonivard walked round and round until he wore a path in the rocky floor. Here
5 a pillar of wood, used occasionally as a stake for Autode-fe [?] performances. Marks of the fire
6 still remain on the pillar. From another prison room up stairs we saw a well with sharp knives
7 worked in the walls to make mince meat of their victims as they passed down some 80 feet and
8 the remains shot out into the lake. After satisfying our curiosity, we retraced our steps to the
9 station at Villeneuve and were soon on our way to Martigny where we arrived in good order at
10 7 p.m. Put up at a comfortable hotel. Made arrangements for an early start in the morning to
11 cross the Fete-Noir pass to Chamounix [currently spelled Chamonix].

12 Sept. 17th. Loaded into a char, a sort of light mountain carriage drawn by 3 mules. Up we went
13 over a good road winding and twisting to take advantage of the easiest grades of the beautiful
14 valley. On either side the mountains pierce the clouds, or would, if there had been any, but we
15 had a cloudless day. Milk, butter & cheese are the principal produces of this part of the world,
16 and every spot, if not over a rod square, among the rocks where grass can be made to grow,
17 why it grows, and is attended to with great care. On a large pasture we noticed some 200
18 cows, each one with a large dinner bell strapped to its neck, and no two of them sounding alike.
19 Talk of chimes, we heard them. It was quite amusing. Very! Looking back down the valley, we
20 could see Martigny and many miles beyond up the valley of the Rhone. Surpassingly grand and
21 beautiful. We arrived at the summit of the pass at 10 o'clock and prepared for our descent.
22 Two of the mules were taken from the front and hitched behind the carriage to hold back, one
23 being left in front to guide the carriage, one of the hind wheels being locked. On we went
24 down a fearfully steep road with an ugly looking precipice or declivity on one side. About noon
25 arrived at the town of Tete-Noir consisting of four or five chalets stuck in the crevices of the
26 rocks. Here we stopped 2 hours for dinner and to rest our mules. Again on our way down a
27 magnificent valley, the Giants of the alps on either side and Mont Blanc in front blocking up the
28 end of the valley. Drawing near the Charmony [Charmonix] valley, the road became so very
29 steep that we all got out of the carriage and proceeded on foot to the base of the hill. Here the
30 valley we have been descending all the afternoon empties itself into the Grand Chamony, and it
31 makes a grand entrée. Looking north we have a view of the Col de Balme which is another
32 route from Martigny to this place. Four immense glaciers are in sight. We load into our
33 carriage, pass the foot of the Mer de Glace and arrive at our hotel, The Imperial in Chamonix in
34 good time for supper.

35 Sept. 18th. After a good deal of argument, I was persuaded against my better judgement to
36 make an excursion across the Mer de Glace. Of course I am glad I went, but I wouldn't do it
37 again if you'd give me the biggest mountain in Switzerland. Now I know what the guide books
38 plainly insinuate, that it is the most fearfully dangerous trip this side of the river Styx, but I will
39 try to describe the journey and will "nothing extenuate, or set down aught in malice." Soon
40 after breakfast mounted on mules with two experienced guides and a muleteer. We started

1 first to climb the side of a high mountain (on the east side of the valley) which forms a sort of
2 promontory between Chamonix and the “Sea of Ice.” We ascended by zig-zags some 2000 feet,
3 then around the point of the promontory to Montenvert [now called Montenvers], a big name
4 for a town containing but one house and a stable. Here we have a grand view of this moving
5 mass of frigidity. In front, 500 feet below where we stand, is the billowy frozen immensity. Off
6 to the right as far as you can see, this river of ice extends, and is lost to view in the snowy tops
7 of the mountains. But we were not so much interested in the far off parts of this matter as in
8 that which lay directly in front of us, and we slowly and carefully descended the crooked path
9 down the moraine to the edge of the glacier. This moraine is a deposit of boulders, rocks, &
10 stones which the glacier has on former occasions brought down from the tops and sides of the
11 mountains and left here in a worn and promiscuous condition. A mule could not climb or
12 descend this path, and the feat is only accomplished by goats, and tourists. Mrs. Van and the
13 girls supplied themselves with coarse woolen socks which a peddler kindly furnished them for a
14 consideration. I for some reason or other neglected the precaution and very shortly afterward
15 discovered that polished sole leather was not the “best thing on ice.” The guide took me by the
16 hand as I slid around considerably and was very fond of leading me up to the big cracks so that I
17 might see the profundity of their depths and admire the azure hue of the gaping walls. But he
18 was as French as the old-boy, and I could not make him understand that I had no taste for such
19 things without socks over my boots. But as in many other cases, the best was kept for the last.
20 The path now led over a ridge of ice some 40 or 50 feet with a wide, beautiful chasm on each
21 side, the ridge half a yard in width. Now it made me mad to see any body walk carelessly along
22 this ridge, but at its terminus I found a spiral stairs cut in the wall of ice with narrow tread and
23 disproportioned risers by which we were to descend some 30 feet where we would find better
24 walking. Newton never pondered over the centre of gravity with more intensity than I did
25 while going down that stairway. All crossed without accident, or rather, accidentally crossed
26 safely. Now came the scramble up the moraine which completely tired Mrs. Van out, and she
27 was obliged to sit down under the shadow of a large boulder and cool off & rest. On the crest
28 of the moraine we found a tolerable path which in the course of a mile terminated against the
29 face of an almost perpendicular precipice. The guide stepped off on a little projection of the
30 rock and pointed to an iron rod for me to take hold of. I understood that well enough to be the
31 rail, but where are the steps. There was neither steps or path, only some slight inequalities in
32 the face of the cliff was to serve for both. The rod was about 600 feet long. I passed across and
33 around a projecting point safely and sat down to await my family or to see how many I had left
34 of them. They came round, one after another all safe, and in high spirits that they had
35 performed this daring feat and cheated the undertaker. Half a mile further we reached the
36 Chaplen, a small hotel where we rested and had dinner. We had now to go down a steep path
37 half a mile where we found our mules had been brot around for us. All mounted and
38 proceeding a short distance, found the path so very steep and dangerous, that I and the girls
39 dismounted and walked to the foot of the mountains, but Mrs. Van was determined that her
40 mule should earn his wages and rode safely down. Our road was level from this point some 3
41 miles to our hotel, and the girls started off on a trot for a bit of a lark and were stopped by a

1 policeman at the edge of the town who politely informed them that Racing was prohibited
2 through that town. Engaged our seats in the diligence for to morrow, and now for a little rest.

3 Sept. 19th. Left Chamounix at 8 a.m. and had a delightful ride down the incomparable valley of
4 the Arve. Arrived at Geneva at 3 o'clock. Called for letters and found none. Swore all the way
5 home without saying a word.

6 Sept. 20th. Sunday. Mrs. Van and I rested. Girls out for a walk.

7 Sept. 21st. Bought Music box for my "little Pet." Wish she could sit on my knee and hear it play
8 those beautiful tunes. Perhaps she will some pleasant evening hereafter.

9 Sept. 22nd. Received a large package of letters to day
10 that were old enough to be turning grey,
11 which somehow or other had lost their way
12 and went backwards and forwards across the say [sea?].
13

14 Sept. 23rd. Ladies off shopping. Strolled around town. Wrote letters to John, Messrs. Boone &
15 Holmes.

16 Sept. 24th. Saw American Consul and sent Power of Atty in Fitsworth matter. Extensive walk
17 about the city.

18 Sept. 25th. Visited Hotel de Ville (city hall). Stairs in tower, a paved inclined plane. Saw room
19 in which Geneva arbitration was held. Examined old parts of the city.

20 26th. Visited Russian church. Saturday being their Sunday, they appear very devout, striking
21 their foreheads on the floor. Was very expressive of humility.

22 27th. Sunday. Went to the Union ch. Heard a good sermon in English. Very refreshing, but
23 rather lengthy.

24 28th. Took carriage for a drive in the suburbs. Employed a guide and visited places of interest
25 not before examined.

26 29th. Hired carriage for a drive to Fernex, 4 ½ miles N.W. of Geneva. The celebrated Voltaire
27 was the founder of this town. He purchased the land in 1759 and proposed to build a town that
28 would rival Geneva. He founded manufactories, built a church, and inscribed on a stone tablet
29 over the portal, "Deo erexit Voltaire." He also built a chateau and resided here for many years.
30 We explored the mansion. Saw many relics and reminiscences of this singular and notorious
31 individual. The grounds are beautifully laid out and are kept in perfect order. The old church
32 remains, but is used as a stable. From a hill before we reach Fernex, we had a fine view of
33 Geneva, the Lake, and Mount Blanc. By the way, this mountain makes a better show in the
34 distance than when we are close upon it. It looms up grandly from this point of view. We
35 returned by a circuitous route and obtained a good idea of the surroundings west of Geneva.

1 Sept. 30th. Girls went to picture gallery & museum.

2 Oct 1st. Visited St Peters church, built in 1024 in Romanesque style, but latterly disfigured by
3 adding a Corinthian portico. Saw Calvins chair and pulpit. There are a number of monuments
4 of no interest. Afternoon studied our Guide books for Italy.

5 October 2nd. Ladies out shopping. I strolled about the city making it a day of rest generally.

6 October 3rd. Drew £ 60 of Lombard Odier & Co. Bought John a watch and chain.

7 Oct. 4th. Sunday. Girls went to Catholic church. Wrote letter to Clara.

8 Oct. 5th. Bought small trunk to pack Doras music box in & shipped it to London. Packed up
9 ready to leave in the morning.

10 Oct. 6th. Left for Turin at 6:30 a.m. Took breakfast at Culoz. The days ride very interesting. Just
11 before entering the Mont Cumis Tunnel [?], we had a splendid view of a valley running as far as
12 we could see to the south west. The setting sun had a very pleasing effect on the landscape.
13 The tunnel some 8 or 9 miles long, rather tedious. It was too dark soon after leaving it to see
14 the country between the tunnel and Turin, which I regretted as it is said to be very grand and
15 interesting. Arrived at 9:45 very much fatigued. Found pleasant rooms at the Hotel Trombetta.

16 Oct. 7th. Employed valet de place to show us the principal places of interest in the city. Visited
17 the Madama Palace, an ancient castle (of the middle ages). The towers on the east side still
18 remain. The west front has been modernized, having a façade of marble columns and a grand
19 vestibule with marble steps & balustrades, erected in 1798, and equals any thing we have yet
20 seen, not excepting the best in Paris. The council chambers is a magnificent hall. Remains just
21 as it was left at the last sitting of the senate in 1865. Turin claims great antiquity, was
22 destroyed by Hannibal 218 B.C. From 1859 to 1865 it was the capital of Italy. The city was
23 nearly destroyed by Francis 1st in 1536 and during the siege of 1706 so that most of the
24 buildings are comparatively modern, and is a well built, first class city. We next visited the
25 Royal Palace, a not very imposing building outside, but the interior is of great extent and
26 finished on a grand scale of magnificence. The armory is a very interesting suite of rooms,
27 statues and suits of armor, every kind of old weapon, known and unknown. A cabinet contains
28 swords and other presents made to the king. Other apartments similar to other palaces already
29 visited. A private passage led us from the Royal Palace into the cathedral of "St John the
30 Baptist." We entered the chapel back of the high altar. This magnificent room covered with a
31 lofty dome, the whole interior finish of dark brown marble, gives very fine effect to the
32 numerous fine monuments and statues of white marble. This chapel is separated from the
33 body of the church by a folding glass partition which is opened on great occasions, giving a very
34 effective view of the chapel from the body of the church. By some accident they neglected to
35 open it on this occasion.

1 Oct. 8th. Went to the museum and picture galleries. Then took an extensive ride in and about
2 the city. The buildings are intensely Italian, my favorite style of architecture, so that I am very
3 much pleased and interested in this very beautiful place.

4 Oct. 9th. Took carriage to the foot of a high hill on which is the Capuchin Monastery.
5 Discharging our carriage, we ascended the hill on foot. From the terrace in front of the church
6 had a fine view. After waiting an hour for the dense fog to clear away, which it did, had a birds
7 eye view of the city. A splendid landscape all round – the horizon on the north and west
8 bounded by the snowy peaks of the alps, Monte Rosa particularly looming up very
9 conspicuously. Descending the hill again took carriage and drove some 4 or 5 miles east where
10 we hired 4 mules and rode on them to the Superga, 2000 feet above the plain on which Turin
11 stands. Visited a very extensive Basilica built on the summit of this mountain in 1717 by Prince
12 Eugene who had vowed to the Virgin that if she would help him win a certain battle, he would
13 build a church for her. He won the battle and here is the church, a very imposing and costly
14 building. It is now used as a burial place for the Italian kings, and in the crypt are several fine
15 monuments with many very excellent pieces of sculpture. Remounting our mules, we went to
16 the foot of the hill and took an omnibus for Turin. The mules were rough trotters. We shall
17 feel the effects of their operations for several days hereafter.

18 Oct. 10th. Drew £ 20 of Vincent & Co. Mrs. Van & I made a very intensive tour on foot about
19 the city. The girls ditto by themselves.

20 Oct. 11th. Sunday. Looked into several churches. One very good painting amused me. It was a
21 representation of Christ raising the dead Lazarus. One of the figures had his hand over his nose
22 and was very expressive of a certain scent on that occasion. The Palace Carignano, a very large
23 building fronting on four streets, curiously ornamented with brickwork on three fronts, the
24 fourth which is new, is of marble and will compare favorably with the best front in Paris (see
25 photograph). There are many fine monuments, one an obelisk of granite 75 feet high erected
26 to commemorate the abolition of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. The occasion pleased me more
27 than the monument.

28 Oct. 12th. Left Turin at 1 ½ p.m. and arrived at Milan at 8 o'clock. Found very good quarters at
29 "Hotel Cavour," intending to do the Italian Lakes and return to this place.

30 Oct. 13th. Arranged to leave our heavy baggage and left for Como at 9 a.m. Arrived at Como
31 station at 1 p.m. Rode in omnibus 2 miles to City of Como. Good rooms at Hotel "Volta,"
32 named after an old native who invented the "Voltaire Battery." After dinner visited the
33 cathedral, a grand structure built in 1396, entirely of fine white marble, stained and rusted by
34 old father time until the white spots are in a very small minority. The Gothic style prevails over
35 a portion of the building, but the transepts and choir are mixed with the Renaissance. The
36 exterior is adorned with statues & sculpture in great profusion. The interior is gaily gilt and
37 frescoed in such brilliant colours as to spoil it in my estimation. There are many fine paintings
38 and other works of art well worth seeing. The old town hall, a quaint old piece of antiquity,

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

1 and orange groves perfume the halls
2 whose sides are formed of vines & trees
3 and walks ~~{?}~~formed of boughs and leaves.
4 The architect that planned this bower
5 spent many a restless sleepless hour
6 or else some Genii gave him power
7 over ordinary minds to tower.

8
9 Got into the boat as quickly as possible after that and steered for the Isola Madre. More
10 extensive than the Isola Bella. The park and gardens very fine and to my taste more enjoyable.
11 There can be too much of a good thing, particularly in a small place. The Isola Bella is crowded
12 with an evident extravagance, yet in a perfect good taste as circumstances would admit.
13 Returned to our hotel. Hired a carriage and drove 15 miles along the margin of the lake to the
14 city of Arona. Passed the celebrated statue of Carlo Boromeo and determined to have a nearer
15 view of it. Ordered dinner at the hotel in Arona and left in a carriage 2 miles to the statue. This
16 is the figure of a man 70 feet high standing on a granite pedestal 40 feet high. The figure is
17 enveloped in a cardinals cloak, the hem of the cloak being 20 feet above the pedestal. There is
18 an opening under the lower edge of the cloak where venturesome persons can crawl to the
19 inside of the stature and ascend by a ladder of iron bars to the head and look out of a small
20 window between its shoulders. The girls wanted to go up. I expostulated with them on the
21 folly and danger of such an undertaking. "I never was willing to let them go anywhere. Others
22 had done it, and they knew they could." I got my mad up and said go. Parties in waiting ran off
23 a few rods and came back with a ladder 43 feet long and commenced to raise it. The girls
24 looked at the ladder and guessed they didn't care about going up, but I ordered the ladder to
25 be put up and told the young ladies to climb, which they did, each being followed closely by
26 one of the men. They reached the top of the pedestal and crawled cautiously around the toe of
27 the boot and sat down. The men now took up a 20 foot ladder and commenced to fix it on top
28 of the long ladder to reach the whole under the edge of the cloak. This was too much for the
29 girls and, frightened nearly into fits, they declared they must come down. I laughed heartily at
30 their calamity and said come down. They obeyed me this time, and when they touched the
31 ground, declared it was the happiest moment of their lives and promise to listen to me next
32 time (if they don't forget, and I don't think they will very soon[]). Drove back to the hotel.
33 After dinner took the cars and at 7 o'clock were safely in our hotel at Milan.

34 Oct. 18th. Sunday. Went to the cathedral. Took a long walk. Returned by the grand boulevard
35 to our hotel. There is a very extensive and beautiful park in front of our windows. The view is
36 soothing to troubled spirits, if it weren't for that infernal hand organ down on the side walk.

37 Oct. 19th. Second visit to the cathedral. Ascended to the roof. Mrs. Van and the girls kept on
38 up to the top most turret of the dome. I satisfied myself with a walk around the base.
39 Saturated and overwhelmed with ecstatic pleasure on examining this, by far the most beautiful
40 building in the world. When I first came in sight of this wonderful structure, my emotion of

1 pleasure was so intense that tears filled my eyes, and I wasn't ashamed of them either. Any
2 architect that can look upon that perfection of loveliness and not feel that he is a "second
3 fiddle" may take my hat. (See photographs.) Interior in keeping with the magnificent exterior.
4 Went down into the crypt to see tomb of Carlo Boromeo. We found a small chapel
5 ornamented with gold and precious stones. Resting on a beautiful pedestal was a casket, frame
6 of gold with rock crystal panels. In this casket was the body of Boromeo. Nothing visible but
7 his head, black as tar, and twice as filthy, shroud of gold cloth sparkling with diamonds, and ring
8 and other relics of this famous saint of great value and shut up with him in the casket. To see
9 this folly costs 5 francs. Visiting the treasury, we were shown life size statues in silver of Saint
10 Boromeo and some other saint. Also a lot of Gimcracks said to be of great value. Visited the
11 celebrated Arcade called the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, the most spacious and attractive thing
12 of the kind in Europe. Built in the form of a cross 320 feet in length with transept about 250
13 feet. Intersection is formed in a large octagonal rotunda 180 feet high covered with a glass
14 dome. The building cost \$1,6000,000. It is a splendid piece of architecture, was finished in
15 1867. Went to the exposition building. Would be interesting if we had not seen such things
16 before.

17 Oct. 20th. Visited "Palace of Science & Art." Statues in marble of celebrated men, a well
18 executed bronze stature of Napoleon 1st, very extensive picture gallery, library, etc. Then to the
19 church "S. Maria delle Grazie," a curious pile of brick and terra cotta of the 15th century. This
20 was an old abbey. And in the refectory (dining room) of the old monastery; adjoining this
21 church (looks more like an old brick stable than a dining room), we found painted on the wall at
22 one end of the room the most celebrated picture in the world – "The Last Supper" by Leonardo
23 da Vinci. The floor is paved with brick. The light is dim. We found half a dozen artists copying
24 the picture. They have a dozen very comfortable chairs arranged at proper distance from the
25 painting to accommodate visitors. Here we sat a long time contemplating the expression of the
26 faces of the several apostles. Peter looks as savage as a broad axe, and pretty nearly upsets
27 Judas as he presses over to John and asks him to question the master. At the opposite end of
28 the stable is another fresco of the crucifixion painted 1495. Walked back to our hotel tired out.

29 Oct. 21st. Drew £ 30 of Ulrich & Co. Visited picture gallery "Biblioteca Ambrosiana." Many fine
30 paintings, sculptures & bronzes. Some of Raphaels cartoons & drawings by Michael Angelo.
31 Visited cathedral the third time. Satisfied.

32 Oct. 22nd. Hired a carriage and guide for a final look at this intensely interesting city. Visited
33 the church of S. Lorenzo, the oldest church in Milan, founded by the Gothic King Ataulph, A.D.
34 400. The building is octagonal. On the four principal sides are four semi-circular apses in two
35 storeys. The architecture is simple but very effective. The church stands back from the line of
36 the street perhaps 100 feet. A colonnade of 16 old Corinthian cols. stand in the street and are
37 supposed to have been at one time the front of the church. They are about 30 feet high.
38 Resemble pictures I have seen of the Ruins of Baalbek. There are mosaics in some of the
39 chapels of this old church representing Christ and the Apostles supposed to have been done in

the 6th century, and an old sarcophagus supposed to be that of the founder of the church. Next visited the church of S Alessandro built A.D. 1602. Nothing remarkable in the style of architecture, but the interior is decorated in the most extravagant manner. Next visited the church S. Ambrogio, founded by St Ambrose in the 4th century, a court in front surrounded by arcades. There are many interesting objects in the church – frescoes, paintings & relics. On top of a marble column is the veritable Serpent that Moses raised in the Wilderness (bah). The crypt contains the tombs of St. Ambrose and others. Next visited the church of St Vittore, formerly the Basilica Persiano. St Victor was beheaded on this spot. The interior decorations are very beautiful and very elaborate. There are many good pictures and sculptures. Then visited the arena, a sort of Colosseum erected by Napoleon 1st. Will seat 30,000 persons, the exterior walls of stone 30 feet high. There is nothing remarkable about the affair except its immensity. Visited the arch of peace (similar to the Arc of Triumphe in Paris) erected by Napoleon in 1804. This is a beautiful structure of white marble with 3 arches, the cornice supported by 8 Corinthian columns. There are many fine figures, beautifully sculpted. On top is the Goddess of Peace in a chariot with six horses, full size, all of bronze. This arch was erected to commemorate the opening of the Simplon road across the Alps. The road commences at this arch and extends over the alps into Switzerland. Visited a beautiful private garden in the heart of the city. The rear walls of the surrounding buildings are skillfully fresco painted to imitate hills and valleys, pavilions and water falls, that you can hardly believe that you are in a circumscribed space of on acre. The illusion is very good, aided by artificial mounds and grottoes, and the arrangement of the shrubs and trees.

Farewell Milan, thy beauties can't be told.
Thy modern palaces or works of old,
no pen can e're describe thy works of art.
I have thy grand Duomo learned by heart.

Oct. 23rd. Left Milan at 9:40 a.m. Arrived at Verona 1:30 p.m. Hotel London. Tolerably comfortable. Hired carriage and guide. Drove to the amphitheatre, probably built by the Romans A.D. 284, built in the form of an ellipsis of red Verona mottled marble which has defied the "tooth of time" in a remarkable degree. It is described as being 546 feet long X 438 feet wide, the arena 240 feet long X 141 feet wide. A part of the outer circumscribing wall is still standing 100 feet high. There are 45 ranges of seats of marble 18 inches high and 26 inches wide. 25,000 persons could sit down and 70,000 more stand in this wonderful circus. The piers which were left rough undesignedly probably gave the hint for the favorite rustic pillars of the Renaissance. The seats are supported on arches forming 72 arcades in the remaining outer wall. I was exceedingly interested in the grand old relic of antiquity. Visited the tombs of the Scaligers – the Scala Family – presidents of the Republic of Verona from 1262 to 1389. The largest of these monuments was built for Can. Signorie [?] in his life time. The monuments are very beautiful Gothic structures of marble of great height. There are several tombs or sarcophagi dating about 1311. In the square near these tombs is a fine marble stature of

1 Dante. Then visited a garden attached to some dukes palace, a very beautiful place, the back
2 part of which is on the side of a very high hill. We ascended by steps and inclined paths to
3 several pavilions and a chapel at the summit from which we had a birds eye view of the city and
4 an extensive panorama of the surrounding country. We saw in this garden several cypress
5 trees about 400 years old and 120 feet high.

6 Oct. 24th. Took carriage & guide. Visited 5 churches and a museum. Saw many fine paintings,
7 sculptures, and other objects of interest. There is nothing surprising in the architecture of this
8 city. They have some fine old campanile towers of great height.

9 Oct. 25th. Sunday. No English church here so we walked about town. Made a second visit to
10 the Arena and gave it a more thorough examination. In this arena St Zenone suffered
11 martyrdom, being torn to pieces by wild beasts. See Guide book for further description of this
12 interesting old city.

13 Oct. 26th. Left Verona at 9:55 a.m. Arrived at Venice 2:35 p.m. Loaded on board of a gondola
14 at the station and sailed off for our hotel stopping on the way at our bankers where we
15 received nine letters. Put up at Hotel Bellevue, our windows looking out on the celebrated
16 Piazza of St Mark, the church of St Mark being directly in our front. Had a good time over our
17 letters. Drew £ 20 of Blumenthal. Wrote letter to John. We met a young man with two sisters
18 (from United States) first at the Milan cathedral. Our girls struck a very sudden intimacy with
19 these strangers, and we found them stopping at the same hotel with us in this place. The girls
20 immediately deserted us to accompany these strangers in a boat ride and did not return until
21 10 ½ o'clock at night causing Mrs. Van and I great anxiety and the girls around blowing up.

22 Oct 27th. The effect of the scolding last night was shown by the girls getting up a 6 o'clock this
23 morning to go out with these young people to see the sun rise. And as it was full moon last
24 night, I pretty generally came to the conclusion that they were Moon struck. They were tired
25 enough to go to bed about the time that Mrs. Van and I were ready to take a walk. We all went
26 first to the top of the campanile tower and had a general view of the city and the adjacent
27 islands. After leaving the campanile, walked through church of St. Mark and into the court and
28 through the corridors of the Ducal Palace. In the evening took along Gondola ride to see Venice
29 by moon-light. Very romantic, but I prefer sun light.

30 Oct. 28th. Employed a "valet de place" or guide to lead us to principal places of interests. Find
31 that we can accomplish more in a day with a good guide than could be done in a week without
32 their aid. First visited on foot church Saints Paul & John, commenced 1240, finished in 1430, a
33 magnificent Gothic building, roof supported on round cols. Has a fine dome. Many fine
34 monuments and paintings. Next visited the Jesuit ch. Exterior not remarkable. The interior is
35 lined with marble, white inlaid with verde antique. The effect is very fine and must have cost
36 an immense sum. The high altar is magnificent, entirely of marble, the canopy supported on
37 ten spiral or twisted columns of verde antique. Taken altogether this is the finest church
38 interior we have yet seen. We now went to the Doges Palace and thoroughly examined the

1 interior of this famous old building. As it would be too great a task to enumerate in detail the
2 numerous pictures and other works of art exhibited in this building or to minutely describe the
3 building, I must refer to the accompanying photographs and to Baedekers Guide Book ^A where
4 the principal objects are shown and mentioned fully. Entering the "Sala del Maggiore
5 Consiglio" we find a magnificent room 165 feet long, 78 feet wide, and 47 feet high, literally
6 covered with pictures of great value, the ceiling beautifully frescoed. One picture covering the
7 entire end wall of the hall represents paradise as the painter imagined it was or would be. The
8 great number of people represented here must have taken a life time for one man to delineate.
9 Visited the senate chamber, also the private sanctum of the three inquisitors. Then crossed the
10 "bridge of Sighs" connecting the palace with the large gloomy prison on the opposite side of
11 the canal. Then we were shown the dungeons in the palace, the places of torture, also the
12 place where the condemned were beheaded, stone gutters to carry off the blood, and the
13 receiving hole where the decapitated bodies were deposited to await removal. Our guide knew
14 all about these horrible places and entertained us accordingly. We adjourned for dinner. After
15 noon resumed our Guide. Got into a gondola and visited the church of "S. Maria della Salute."
16 This is by far the most beautiful church in Venice. It is octagonal in form having projecting
17 chapels on the different faces of the main building, which is surmounted by a magnificent
18 dome. This building was erected as a monument of thanksgiving after the disappearance of the
19 Plague in 1630, which carried off 60,000 people. The altar is a grand piece of the sculptors art.
20 There are many very fine paintings. We then visited the glass works where we saw how they
21 made artificial eyes of glass and a multitude of other ingenious things. Our guide was in hopes
22 we would invest largely here in glass Gimcrackery as he doubtless would get a commission on
23 our purchases, but we were not in the glass business and declined to buy anything. Next visited
24 the church Gli-Scalzi, a very beautiful building belonging to the order of the barefooted Monks,
25 erected A.D. 1649. The interior is beautifully decorated with variegated and inlaid marbles.
26 There are many good paintings & sculptures.

27 Oct. 29th. Walked out with our guide. First visited the "Academy of Science & Art." Saw many
28 fine pictures, among which is Titians Assumption, considered his masterpiece. The "Marriage
29 of Cana" by Padovanini [Padovanino]. These were taken by Napoleon 1st to France, but were
30 brot back at the restoration of things. Next visited the Royal Palace, a great number of
31 magnificent rooms gorgeously furnished and ready for occupancy at a moments warning. Saw
32 a centre table here that cost \$100000, top of stone cameos finely engraved, and covered with
33 plate glass, the frame of gold. After dinner visited the church "S. Maria dell Orto." Good Gothic
34 façade. The interior contains several choice paintings. "The Last Judgement" and the
35 "Adoration of the Golden Calf," large paintings by Tintoretto, are particularly fine. We now
36 visited the church of the "Franciscans," one of the largest churches in Venice. Architecture
37 Gothic with modifications. Erected in the 13th century, it contains many monuments, sculpture,
38 and pictures. I procured photographs of the monuments of "Titian" and "Canova." (For
39 continuation of Venice, see Second Volume.)