

1 therefore we expect it will seem to pass rapidly. The month of March is unpropitious for our tour in
2 Austria and Germany, but it is the best we have for it, and we propose to do the best we can with it. It
3 has been rather cool to day for driving, so that we took a long walk around the "Castle hill,"
4 reconnoitering the harbor of Limpia [Lympia] east of the hill where we found a large number of ships
5 and other craft which gave quite a commercial aspect to the place. Also passed the land slide of this hill
6 which a year or two since destroyed a large building not yet rebuilt. The ruin and debris were frightful
7 and suggestive about building too close to the "everlasting hills," which do not last forever in some
8 cases. We did not go out this afternoon.

9 Feby. 12th. Took carriage at 11 o'clock and drove over Mont-Boron to the town and bay of Villafranca.
10 The mont is about 800 feet above the sea. The view from the summit is very grand, the sea coast for 20
11 miles east and west, "Castle hill" and the city of Nice at our feet. In the back ground, sweeping round
12 from right to left, the rugged Alps loom up into the clouds (except in clear weather) and their snowy tops
13 blazing in the sun light (when there are no clouds) make a beautiful picture on a large scale. We
14 descended the mont by a splendid winding road, passing many picturesque villas, to the town and
15 harbor of Villafranca. Here we found the United States frigate "Congress" lying at anchor in the harbor.
16 It was pleasant to see the "stars & stripes" waving from the mizzen-gaff of one of our ships of war sent
17 here to protect our commerce – or my little party if needed. The ladies wanted to go on board, but I
18 declined on the present occasion. We returned by a road around the base of the mountain feeling very
19 much pleased with our excursion. We noticed on this excursion plum trees in full blossom and pea vines
20 4 feet high in full bloom. This seems strange to us in latitude 43°-30 in the middle of February. The
21 thermometer has not been below 54° Fahrenheit in the shade since we have been here. We made our
22 trip to day in an open carriage. The ladies found their parasols useful on this occasion.

23 Feby. 13th. Ladies out shopping. New suit of clothes tried on. Satisfactory fit. Ladies compliment me on
24 my improved appearance & figure.

25 Feby. 14th. Sunday. Did not rest well last night. Indigestion the probable cause of our wakefulness.
26 Restored the equilibrium by making this a day of rest. The weather is delightful, resembling our
27 warmest spring weather at home. We like it.

28 What shall I write when I've nothing to say,
29 And no thing of interest has transpired to day.
30 Try jingling in rhyming 'tis the only way,
31 But musical nonsense is rather poor play.
32 Well, here are the mountains, the city, and sea,
33 Bright, sparkling fountains, and the evergreen tree,
34 The gardens in bloom with the flowering pea.
35 All this in north latitude full forty three.
36 The high peaked mountains with valleys between,
37 The tip-tops all snowy, the valleys all green.
38 The olive and orange trees every where seen,
39 Got through with this day. T'was a pretty tight squeeze.
40 Girls walked up a mountain and lamed both their knees.
41 They were hunting wild flowers, mosses, and leaves,
42 And walked twice as far as with their health agrees.