

1 March 20th. This morning clear and cool. Left Prague at ten o'clock and by a roundabout road arrived at
2 Dresden at 5:20 P.M. Found very pleasant rooms at Hotel Victoria. Passed through heavy snow squalls
3 on the road with occasional sunshine. Find very little snow here. Had a clear sun-set and a promise of
4 pleasant weather.

5 March 21st. Sunday. The vernal equinox. We promised to be home in the spring, and here it is. We face
6 the west from Berlin. The weather is very capricious and uncertain. Snow squalls and sunshine has been
7 the order of this day. Ladies did not go out to day. I took a short walk but, finding it too cool and
8 disagreeable, returned very soon to our very comfortable hotel.

9 March 22nd. Secured a guide who speaks a little English, but that little is so mixed with a
10 superabundance of German, that it requires very close attention to separate it. Having some little
11 difficulty in finding him, we did not get ready to go out until after 12 o'clock. We walked a long distance,
12 crossed the Elbe on the old bridge of Augustus to the Japanese Palace. Here we paid 2 Thalers (7 francs)
13 for permission to see the porcelain gimcrackery. We were escorted through some 20 large rooms, or
14 vaults, in the basement of the building containing an immense collection of china and porcelain dishes
15 and platters, vases, and tea pots of every description – and many things which defy description. The
16 custodian was very eloquent and expatiated in tolerable English on the different eras of the productions
17 and of the immense value of certain vases & things. It was all lost on me as I would not give the price of
18 admission for the whole collection – although there are 60,000 pieces of crockery in the establishment.
19 On the principal floor is a very extensive collection of antique statuary. But as the catalogue was printed
20 in German, we were unable to tell which was Caesar or which was Cicero, but we enjoyed this part of
21 the museum nevertheless.

22 March 23rd. Walked out with guide at 10 o'clock. Visited first the celebrated Green vaults, being the
23 royal treasury, where we found some eight large fire proof rooms in the basement, or ground floor, of
24 the royal palace, fitted up with cases, shelves, and cabinets in which are a multitude of works of art in
25 silver, gold, ivory, and porcelain. In one cabinet were diamonds and other precious stones forming
26 buttons, necklaces, sword hilts, and other ornaments valued at 15 millions of dollars. We were shown
27 the communion goblet used by Martin Luther. Also two rings worn by him. The coronation dress of the
28 emperor, and a thousand other useless, but costly, gimcracks go to make up this show. We next visited
29 the celebrated picture gallery situated near the royal palace. We have seen many picture galleries of
30 high rank, and it takes something extraordinary to interest us. Here we were not only interested, but
31 surprised. All others we have seen (taken as a whole) must take a back seat. Here are many gems and
32 absolute perfection of the painters art. We remained here until exhausted nature ordered a retreat to
33 our hotel. We shall visit this gallery a second time, a compliment we have not bestowed on any other
34 gallery. The weather continues cool, & cloudy skies threaten more snow. We shall appropriate the first
35 fair day to a general ride about the city. We miss the flowers and green things of summer, but judge
36 from the stems and general arrangement that this must be a lovely place in the proper season. Also
37 visited the cathedral, a very large and imposing building of irregular form. Examined the interior and
38 found it a very shabby affair with absolutely nothing worthy of notice except perhaps its liberal
39 dimensions.

40 March 24th. Bright, warm day. Martha, a little under the weather, will stay in the house to day. Mrs.
41 Van, Julia, and I will take a carriage at 10 o'clock for a ride around town. Guide and carriage promptly on
42 time. Open landau being the only thing fit to ride in if you wish to see all that may be seen on a drive of