

1 this sort. We passed many fine villas in the skirts of the city, each surrounded with gardens of greater or
2 less extent. I noticed one peculiarity in these garden arrangements. In one corner of the garden on the
3 street line a light pavilion, arbor, or summer house with floor elevated about 3 feet above the side walk.
4 They are undoubtedly shaded in summer by foliage of the grape, or other vines, and probably are a very
5 fashionable resort on summer evenings, as every villa has one, almost without exception. We drove 3 or
6 4 miles out of town to the S.E. Crossed the Elbe on a steam ferry boat and returned to the city through
7 the eastern suburbs. This ride gave us a very comprehensive view of the entire city. We'll finish it to
8 morrow. Drew 50 £ of Robert Thode & Co. The different kinds of money we have to deal with would
9 puzzle an astronomer. Marks & thalers, Groshen and pfennings are some of the names of the coins and
10 currency used in trade.

11 March 25th. Some kind of holiday. Stores are generally closed. Has something to do with the closing up
12 of Lent, but I am not enough of a Catholic to understand the meaning of it. I suppose if all the holy-days
13 of the church were rigidly observed, there would be very few left for business or recreation. Martha not
14 feeling able to go out to day. The rest of us made our second visit to the picture gallery. Spent a couple
15 of hours pleasantly, perhaps profitably. Regretted that Martha could not be with us as she is a great
16 admirer of fine pictures, particularly of nude babies & blue-mantled madonnas.

17 March 26th. Left Dresden at 10:20 this morning. Had a pleasant and rapid ride to Berlin where we
18 arrived at 2:5 P.M. [sic] and found excellent accommodations at "Hotel Royal." Our windows on 2nd floor
19 overlook the grand promenade and boulevard called "Unter-den-linden." The day has been cloudy, and
20 it is raining this evening. We are a little ahead of our programme time here and propose to wait for
21 pleasant weather before we make up our mind as to what sort of a place this is. We have been traveling
22 side ways toward home for a long time and feel pleasant when we think of leaving this city with our
23 faces fronting directly west – but we don't intend to hurry.

24 Mch. 27th. Cloudy sky but warm. Ladies did not go out. I took a long walk. Finally hunted for a guide
25 recommended to us by somebody who had tried him. Found his house and left a note asking him to call
26 at our hotel. The guide called this afternoon. Talks good English and seems to understand his business.
27 We propose to rest until Monday when, if it is pleasant, we will visit Potsdam, 18 miles. The guide
28 thinks we can get through with Berlin by next Friday and do it thoroughly.

29 Mch. 28th. Sunday. Cleared off and turned out a warm, sunny day. Mrs. Van and I went out, stopped
30 into a drug store, and purchased some medicine to fix Martha for our trip to Potsdam to morrow. Sent
31 letters to John, Frank, and Clara. The broad avenue in front of our windows was alive with carriages this
32 afternoon, some very fine, some so-so.

33 March 29th. Nix Potsdam to day. Snowed a little last night. Moist under foot, dull & cloudy overhead.
34 Guide called at 10 o'clock. Took carriage and drove to the cathedral. As to day is a religious holy day,
35 stores all closed. Expected to hear some good singing and perhaps see the royal family. Found the
36 church packed full. Reached a standing place where we had a full view of the emperor's pew. It is in the
37 gallery, represents a private box of a theatre. The singing by a choir of 80 boys was good. Occasionally
38 the congregation were allowed to sing, which was better. The church is Lutheran. The Crown Prince and
39 a couple of old ladies were all that we could see in the royal boxes. We soon left this for the royal
40 palace. The ascent in the grand hall is by an inclined plane on one side and marble stairs on the other. It
41 is said that Frederick the Great used to ride up this inclined plane on horseback. It would be safer riding
42 up than riding down as it is pretty steep and rather crooked. We were shown through the state