

10-12-1890

## Ida H. Grant to Ma, October 12, [1890]

Ida Honoré Grant

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(1889?)

October 12<sup>th</sup>  
Vienna Austria

Dear Ma

Since it is really so rare  
and unusual for me to  
hear from you, I must ha-  
ten to acknowledge the  
letter which I received yester-  
day from you, which I was  
truly so glad to have got only  
because of the news it  
contained, but, because  
the assurance it was  
to me that you were really  
not completely broken down

and ill from all you  
have gone through - I am  
really glad to think that you  
and Sis are probably by  
this time, at home again,  
since it will relieve you both  
in some degree, from the  
reasons than which you have  
been under, constantly look-  
ing after the invalids. Of  
course I am unreasonable,  
as I am really wishing you  
had mentioned more about  
your own health and  
Sis! though I should be  
thankful for the news of it.

Some warmings come as with the "Influenza"  
all are wanted, as I am not at all like you  
but most prudent, and selfishly look out  
for my own health, which now is certainly  
stronger and better than it had been for  
many years - I feel really so energetic and  
well that if it were not that my hair has  
wilfully taken a turn to grow white (like all  
your family's) I would think I was getting  
younger, and you may all put aside any  
thought of anxiety now about me. - The little  
town I had of "Influenza" seemed to do me  
good than otherwise, as I really was taken care  
of by Mrs Beldy and the excellent physician  
we have here, and the change of climate  
and scene <sup>in this country</sup> and the really <sup>very</sup> interesting  
trip, we took this summer, has done me wonder-  
ful good in some way. I think I may truly  
say that even as a young girl and always  
I had not the strength that I have now, and  
Am quite amazed at myself though certainly  
I have never been delicate - It is such a perfect  
pleasure and satisfaction to, that the children



3<sup>rd</sup>

are not only "free", but im-  
proving, studying and devel-  
oping finely in every way &  
appreciate thoroughly that  
they must improve this truly  
shining hour, which will  
be of all too short duration.

You are the ones to take care  
of yourselves, and I am so  
sorry to hear that the dreaded  
"Influenza" is prevailing especi-  
ally in the better part of the  
United States — You and  
Uncle Ben must be ~~very~~  
so careful now, not to take  
cold this fall — Sis and

Aunt Laura seemed to have  
escaped the sickness though  
they are always so liable to  
have colds and coughs—  
It was just like his bits all  
she did for the poor invalid,  
which was all such a Com-  
fort and saved her Atford's  
life doubtless! But she was  
customed to doing that map.  
She did so much for me, when  
our boy was born, and made  
herself sick over me, but what  
should I have done, I was so  
miserable in New York at  
that time? The Country place  
on the Boulevard seemed

like a paradise and I was well from the  
moment I reached there - We have around  
us all the proofs of her kindness continually;  
- East of all the most beautiful glassware -  
which Fred and I prize so highly - Our boy  
has bought nothing to wear since we have  
been abroad, and Julia is just now rejoicing  
in her last gift from her Aunt Bertha -

This week have arrived, the two large  
Dutch Cabinets, the Table, and Sofa, which  
I bought in Holland - With the money you  
sent me. And my new dress which also comes  
out of the amount is really very lovely and I  
wish you could see it - It is a soft plum color,  
cloth with jacket trimmed with velvet, and  
high feather collar - The sleeves are of a  
lighter shade of the color beautiful embroidery  
adorned, and I have very stylish little tresses of  
same plush - It is very fine and I feel  
very well fixed up I assure you -  
You see how far the money has gone as I  
went slowly and used it for just what I wanted

9<sup>th</sup>  
the very best - Here have  
been many Americans passing  
through Valina going home  
or south for the winter. They  
seem to travel in every direc-  
tion - Indeed I some times  
wonder that they are willing  
to leave their beautiful homes,  
and stay in Europe so much.  
The people over here are  
equally surprised - It cer-  
tainly necessary almost  
everyone who comes to us  
with letters or cards at home  
be done and is really a fast

What is expected of the  
Minister - Our Apartment  
is very comfortable and com-  
plete as you know all our  
things were very nice and  
handsome indeed. My  
dear wonderfully so over here,  
where notwithstanding the  
grandeur, and long suites  
of empty looking but carpeted  
dressing rooms, there is a  
great deal of simplicity in  
the general living. They have  
all been having fine things  
for so many centuries, & so, these

it is considered common and vulgar to  
try to be very fancy or showy in our dress.  
The middle class or business people here  
are the finely dressed ones in the street, having  
everything handsome, while the high aristocrats  
assume great indifference to dress  
except on high occasions, when their robes  
and their jewels are simply overwhelming.  
Having been lauded as complaisant in the past,  
in between times they scarcely wear a ring.  
Their rank is known by the number of servants  
whose livery is shining. The masters look  
most plain, and lead usually most simple lives.  
Fred has just had an imitation from the  
Emperor's - "L'Esprit-Inf. - Rucan" by shooting on  
the royal preserves upon the 17th - much to his  
delight! He is as wild to have a hunt or a child  
would be out the shooting here is very fine, and  
this a complimentary imitation, which comes  
occasionally to the ministers - Our boy now  
has lessons in horse-back riding & his own attire,  
and Fred intends to have both the children take  
this winter which is all the fashion here from  
the farm to the old Disbrey's Paget who is



1875  
10 years old and is on the ice,  
part of the afternoon in winter.  
It will be exercise and  
diversion as the children both  
study hard. As all the ladies  
skate, she insists upon my  
doing so. I think not.  
Now I have run on as usual  
at about all we are doing.  
Don't conceited and egotistical  
I must leave to you all who  
persist in telling me ab-  
solutely nothing of yourself  
in any way. I suppose when  
you have finished reading

one of my letters you are  
all so tired and sick of  
us and our doings, that is  
the reason you don't feel  
like writing more. —

I trust however, that some  
one will write sometimes. How  
charming it is that Harry & Anne  
be in a beautiful little home  
with his wife — I can not  
imagine the pleasure they  
have in their own house.

Fred and I have always  
imagined that would be  
his to have a house that  
was one's own, as we have  
really been rovers on  
the face of the earth it



seems - I often wonder  
what we shall do after  
this I imagine Julia being  
1 year old in a short  
time - I can see I appreci-  
ate this position and indeed  
did all I could to keep  
her at it - I only wish it  
were for six years on the  
Pulchra's account if for  
any other reason - I do wish  
I could hear all about  
the Michigan Ave. home - I  
think the boys must be coming  
soon as times are flourish-  
ing and the 24 position will