

12-15-1889

## Ida to Sis, December 15, [1889]

Ida Honoré Grant

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a Mrs Jackson is her Aunt / Flw —  
 sister of the Miss Baird I don't recall  
 you at "Spiny Lake" She sent me some  
 flowers very kindly —  
 Dear Sir,

How can I thank you or ex-  
 press what I feel for all  
 your kind thoughtful  
 and beautiful gifts — I have  
 now received the most lovely  
ornament, for my table,  
 which we have used once  
 already with flowers and  
 fine glasses — It is perfectly

Beautiful and everyone  
said so, indeed it is most  
magnificent and delicate —

Strange today. I was just  
wondering what I must  
get for the middle of our  
table, and Fred and I  
had been talking it over.  
I have used ever since I  
have been here, and used  
always in Morristown, the large  
dark blue jar you gave  
me, — when I was in the

"Brown Cottage", Mojolicia - I always  
have ferns in it, and it is on our table.  
My table all day in the dining-room, but  
it seems just a little dark and heavy on  
the table by gas-light; now we have the  
pretty glass Mrs Grant gave us and the most  
lovely choice center-piece. In fact we were  
were so fine before - We dined on Christmas  
morning at the English Embassy, Lady Ryl  
(who I considered so haughty) having sent me  
a most cordial note of invitation - It is the first  
time we have been to one of the Embassies, <sup>to dine</sup> and  
I am very anxious to see how they have every  
thing and how their table will look etc.  
I have been to one or two dinners here, among the  
English and found their table most dingy & if  
course there can be nothing here compared  
to New York or Chicago - I was much surprised  
at these dinners to find one or two ladies / maidens



8<sup>th</sup> their floors all during  
winter, but it looked very  
dry and fresh, and I don't  
believe they will do so again.  
The "L'ante Antrocinie" - We  
had General and Mrs. Rodolphe  
& dinner with us, and they had  
taken us to the play given by  
some Amateurs here for Charity.  
They also took us to see the  
"Royal Riding School" where all  
the fine Equestrians were exercising  
the beautiful horses -  
The General is very elegant and  
interesting, and has a fine

position here, having held  
high rank in the Army. His  
Wife seems a nice little thing  
but some Officers tell Capt. Kim  
that she is a Jewess, the  
daughter of a rich banker, whom  
Genl. Rodoltsch married for  
money. At any rate he is  
extremely nice and devoted to  
her and they know a great many  
people of high position, whether  
she goes to Court or not. When  
they took up the glass the Genl.  
introduced some distinguished

men to us and told them who Fred was etc.  
One or two had been in America - Among others  
a Count Mitternich <sup>Cousin</sup> brother of the Prince and Count  
K - I came from Fred their mother in law,  
and told him what he already knew, that it  
was the custom here for the stranger to call the  
day after the introduction but for some reason  
Fred did not get to see them for two days and  
at his arrangement they threw aside ceremony  
everyone of them and called upon him as  
Count K had done first, which can only be  
explained by saying that here every thing  
is rank absolutely and they consider their  
father was so distinguished that he held  
himself high. You can't imagine possibly  
a greater difference in every way than there  
is in the society here and that of our country where  
we are entirely simple and unpretended. But I  
find that when you really meet the aristocrats  
and they feel satisfied as to your rank, they are  
only too delighted to be natural and unpretended -

9<sup>th</sup> but it is really most necessary  
to keep clear of the 1<sup>st</sup> class  
who are really the gap ones  
if one expects to associate  
of all with the high aristocrats  
It is perfectly absurd and lagging.  
He for Mr. Lee to compare  
the Court at Brussels, with this.  
Here, they are so free and easy  
and even the Russian Court  
is most democratic, in fact.  
This is now acknowledged to  
be the only Court in Europe  
where all this stuff formal

Ugnette is kept up. The  
Empress of Russia receives  
once a week all foreigners es-  
pecially who, have any letters  
or introduction at Court just  
as they do in England, in fact.  
The English Court is staying;  
and that at Brussels is a  
~~most~~ informal little house  
affair, everyone says, and  
the "loyenne" of our Corps  
who will introduce me to  
many whom I have not yet met,  
is a prominent figure at  
her own Court in Brussels.

She though very elegant and accomplished is  
one of the most unaffected and natural mem-  
ber of all the Diplomats - Last year Lady  
Paget had staying with her a niece the daughter  
of Lady Anglesey of Eng (who by the way is American)  
and when the first Court ball was to occur -  
Lady Paget wanted Mrs Stanton as wife of the  
American Minister, to introduce the young lady  
or such permission through some high offi-  
cial to do so - Mrs Stanton refused being such  
a stranger and as it is the common talk that  
an effort it was on the part of the English Ambas-  
sador who has been here for many years to  
get her more an imitation to the Court reception  
You know this Emperor and Empress never  
receive extraneously, except in the case of some  
distinguished visitor or Royal personage.  
They give a Diplomatic dinner and two balls  
and sometimes a concert, when they are feeling  
gay and happy. And all is quiet on the  
morning still continues for the Crown Prince

13<sup>th</sup>

Prince A. H. de Saxe receives  
on next days evening, all  
the Court and the Diplomats  
There will be an honor  
and in that way Japan  
respects to the Emperor by  
calling upon his representative  
The Prince - All will be in  
full uniform, and while  
it lasts the reception will  
be brilliant, very formal &  
grand - The poor royal family  
and aristocrats are really  
kept very quiet and curious.



scribed in their movements

It is said that the Emperor  
is really a most miserable  
woman - and the Emperor is  
quite broken-hearted - <sup>over the loss of his only</sup> son  
He is this week to call upon  
the last Arch Duke the  
Emperor's brother - whom he has  
not yet met - As it is custom-  
ary here now like St. Peter  
with him his secretary  
but Mr. Chas speaks rather  
French or German so he  
will this time take Capt  
Hein - There is much talk



more than 1 can accept of  
more than 2 clear and  
sharp the other  
more than 1 can accept of  
more than 2 clear and  
sharp the other

here about the Influenza which lasts in every  
family about three days, and is nothing  
serious - We have all had our little turn at it  
and soon it rages, but I hope if this thing gets  
across the ocean, no vice slip in the house,  
she has had her inflammation of the lungs  
often and they say this thing sometimes takes  
form - The epidemic is now in Eng-  
land I believe, and is on the decrease here  
We are so comfortable and glad to have our  
own home and so well fixed, it seems  
hard to believe that this only temporary  
we have been - We now are hoping for a visit  
from him, we have been begging him for some  
time to come over and to surely be here by  
Christmas - I have written to Nellie several times  
urging her to come but it seems she is  
greatly taken up now with her new house and  
domestics and servants - Just getting settled &  
she will come later - We sat the pickles with joy &  
if you could have seen General Goodenough helped  
three times when I told you had sent them -  
Thank them appreciated by us all - Thanks many  
times but do let me drop now for a while - I have no