

3-16-1890

Ida H. Grant to Ma, March 16, [1890]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Verina Hunt Esq
1890

Dear Ma,

I have heard from you all
so seldom of late that I fear
some of you have been
ill, or have not recovered yet
from the "Influenza" in-
deed, I have not yet heard posi-
tively, which ones of you, had
the sickness - I am glad on the
boys account, that the fair is
to be held in Chicago, as they

seemed to wish it to be there,
but it seems to me, it is a
great undertaking for the city.

Now, I am writing to know
why you never mention coming
over to see me, and why
you have answered never
once my inquiries about
this. Will you not come
over with his and Mrs. Howe
this summer, or with the
Capt. Hazard and his wife?
Are the latter two, not fla-
gging me, to come abroad this

Spring — I wish Harry long yet, that we may
be delighted to have them visit us. What
are you all planning and intending to
do — Could you and Aunt Laura come
if the others do not — You ought to come
in May or June, and Fred and I are hoping
so much to see you here — I now hope to
see come to make me a visit, though he
did not find it possible earlier — and I
am about writing to Nellie, who has promised
all along but never found time to come & see
us — We hear from New York constantly,
they are all well here, Brook saying in one
letter, that they thought of running out this
Summer, with his mother, but that is all
we have heard — Now Brook and Lizzie are
very busy and much interested in adding
a new wing to this country house, which
before seemed very large to me, and if they are

5th

So many buildings expecting
to go out there, in the early
Spring, I don't see how they
can pack up all their furniture
and come about,
but one never knows, as they
always seem to do just what
they choose within a short
time's notice.

Our present idea, is to stay
right here, in our apartment
as late in June as possible,
not leaving it until Fred

Takes his 60 days leave, and
then to travel during that
time, see as much as we can
and return again to this
home, as I like it better in
June and Sept than to be
in hotel rooms some where,
and Vienna is just what.
Work, pleasant in those months,
only so many think they must
go to the country, because they
have magnificent places there.
The Austrians go to the
country the middle or last of

May and stay there until Christmas.
No one ever thinks of society, or calling
even on anyone here, until December.
Many of the Diplomats take villas for the
season (a month) and others travel, as we
will do. The children do not get through their
studies, until some time in June, and it is
more of a novelty to me to have a home of my
own, than anything else, so I will enjoy
staying in it as long as we must pay the
rent for it but perhaps it is more desirable.
I was for taking a trip in April or May
but I am sick and prefer to take things
more quietly, just as our travelling during
July and August when Vienna is really
not so pleasant. Now don't you think you
can make up your mind to come over? It
really isn't half as hard to do, as you ima-
gine, and I want to see you so much.

3rd

I should think you would
take some interest in seeing
our home here, and seeing
how big my Children are
now ~~the~~ - Its answer and
Come, Tell me all the plans -
We have been going to ~~see~~
very large elegant, official
and diplomatic, dinners -
Having one with Count
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lalno ~~by~~ (who gives two large
dinners, dividing the Diplomatic
Corps in halves) - Then we must

The German Embassy with
Prince and Princess Reuss
(They are also of the Royal family of
Germany). We dine next at
the French Embassy, with
Monsieur and Madame de Cray.
These Embassies are all great
palaces, supplied by the
Governments, a servant in
livery behind every chair.
Chasseurs and Maitres d'hôtel
in abundance, - Otherwise the
Amateurs are all about the same

just about what Mrs Grant used to have at
the White House for state dinners—

It takes a good deal of courage on the part
of a Minister, who supplies his own little
apartment and servants, to return the great
hospitalities of these governments, but we
really seem to have more or quite as much
as any Minister here—Our table-furniture
better as they don't do much in that line.

I have actually visited Sir Augustus and
Lady Poyt (who had us very early in the
season) Mr Baron and Madame Thellier (he
of the foreign office) to dine with us on Wed-
nesday next—The matter of entertaining here
is terrific, on account of the etiquette and seating
of guests. They think so much of the sort of
thing, indeed there is more stiffness etiquette
and ceremony here than was ever known any
where—It is really horrid, more elegant

13th

Not to rush in and entertain
here - The great thing to
do is to hold one's own self
high, and rest on one's just
rights, & we have done no
special entertaining as is
usual with Ministers the first
winter, to be very quiet in that way.
Our own Ministers
are never or have not in the
past, been kept here, for more than
two or three years, so they never
have taken the place in soci-
ety that the other Ministers
have, who have been here from ten

to twenty years — We quite
fully made up our minds to go
very slowly and as stiffly as
anyone — But really our winter
has been most pleasant, we
can now go every night to the
Park, & these different "soirees"
which are given during winter
and we feel that we have been
treated most cordially —
The continual talk and com-
plaining in the Diplomatic
Corps, is wonderful, at such hours
the Austrians keep a wall be-
tween the foreigners and themselves —

and they tell me, that now I have had all
my presentations. ~~to the~~ The Archduchess etc
that that is the last I will see or hear of them
if I spent a lifetime here, only seeing them
at a distance, at the Carls Vally, etc, in the park
all of which does not worry me as I can stand
if the Austrians can, and in truth, as to
my enjoying my home, carriage, fern-box
and the advantages the children have, and
schooling myself to know that it can't last, to
think of nothing else. I never had so much fun
and as to society will enjoy what has seemed to me
the cordiality and elegance without looking for
faults — I only wish I felt certain of staying 4
years — I must tell you that my blue dress
with white lace collar and trimmings has been
complimented by every lady. It is really wonderfully
admirable, and has told me, after Kalosky's dinner
that three of the gentlemen remarked to him in the
dining room what a beautiful bit of lace his wife
wore, which is unusual — ^{and I have heard all my friends}
do so. I don't like it. I don't like it.

Via England



Mrs H. Honoré

No 438 — Elm Street

Chicago
Illinois

U. S. of America

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MAR 27 1890

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MAR 29 1890
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MAR 30 1890