

6-13-1890

[Ida Honoré Grant] to Ma, June 13, [1890] [Incomplete?]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Winnipeg June 13th

1890

Dear Mr

As we have been invited
so cordially, and thought
of going for some time, we
today start for "Hollenezz"
The Castle of Prince and the
Princess Alfred Liechtenstein,
in Styria. They are charming
people, her brother the
present reigning Prince, being
so unsociable as never to ap-
pear in the social world
of Vienna, and having no
family; this Princess being

being ^{married} to the head of the same
Branch of the Liechtenstein
family, may really be consid-
ered ^{now} the Prince her husband
and the social head of
their house of Liechtenstein.
As you know, their family is
the most aristocratic and
proud one, of all the high
Aristocrats and indeed it
is so old, that they mention
with pleasure that the Liechten-
steins were reigning in
Austria, a Century before
the Hapsburgs. Their Prin-
cality has always remained
independent of the Austrian
Government which they will

defense and fight for, but never represent
as a subject. The reigning Prince has still
the right to have money coined for his
Principality, upon which is always, of course,
his portrait; and his little country is one of
the few, which does not have to be taxed;
or pay taxes to this government. There are
of course, many branches of the family; a
distant cousin Charles has recently made
himself famous by getting terribly in debt,
which counts for of course, here (see Almanac
in our papers at home). But that Charles
belongs to an entirely different branch. This
Prince Alfred is the eldest son of the second
son, Prince John being the eldest son of the
elder brother of Alfred's father. Prince Alfred has
two other brothers, Alois, and Henry, the latter
being much younger and the one who was
in America, when Fred was aide de camp to
General Sheridan's staff in the Army. He at
that time took Prince Henry Liechtenstein
of Austria with him on a shooting
trip to Prince Montemurro upon a shooting
trip to 6 weeks, far upon the plains, bringing them

5th

He, then necessary directing
our Soldiers, according to Genl
Sheridan's Commands. Prince
Henry Called upon us immedi-
ately, upon our arrival in
Vienna, "tout sans Cerimonie",
and, as many "Dips" took
 pains to tell us, this was a
most exceptional overthron-
ing of all laws of etiquette
in Vienna, especially of the
laws followed usually by
these high old families
They never call first upon
the stranger arriving in their
land. Since then Prince

Henry has continued to come
to see us most informally
He was away during the
winter, but when he was
presented, at a great ball, to
Princess L. He immediately
said "Oh you and my brother
in-law had such a pleasant
trip together, he wants to come
to see you here - He will re-
turn in a month or two" and
from that time on, whenever
we met her, she talked of his
movements, and as soon as
he returned to Vienna he
called, when I saw him,
and he was extremely pleased

With his agreeable, natural manner, and bright
~~like all the family~~ ^{very} & handsome
conversation - Then as you know later
Prince and Princess Alfred L. invited us
to dine, a Compliment we enjoyed all
the more perhaps, because, we heard on
all sides how very rare a thing it was for
Austrians to invite foreigners to dine of
late years, (since the Emperor has been
so quiet in mourning and the Court
never entertaining), The Austrians limit
their attentions to foreigners, to invitations
to their large balls - In fact for several
years the Esterhazy's and ~~many~~ ^{others} of
the great families, have been in mourning,
and it has gotten to be the fashion to take
banquets to a limited ^{extent}, ~~amount~~ ^{even} but then very bri-
liantly and splendidly. Liechtenstein's dinner
was a most agreeable one; I think I note
of it, they had some distinguished
Austrian present. I sat on the Prince's
right, as he took me in to dinner, and
he was most entertaining, conversing al-

9th
says in French, Though the
Princess and Prince
Henry spoke English, remark-
ably well. In fact the
Princess, who is charming
and amiable, became so
interested and excited over
her efforts in ^{speaking} English, that
she turned to Count Clausen,
who sat on one side of
her, and remarked in Eng-
lish, a language of which
he could not understand
a word, - that "she found it
much more difficult to
speak English now than

She had many years ago
When she had an English
Governess - The Prince was
intensely amused at her be-
coming so English all of
a sudden that she even
spoke to her old Austrian
friends in that language.
We had never met Prince
Alfred before the Prince,
though he and I had ex-
changed many cards, and
we knew the Princess well
but when we entered the
"Ante-Chambre," the Prince
came forward though

All the rooms, & the door, to give us a most
cordial and warm welcome to his home,
and joining me his arm led me into the
drawing-room - During times during the
dinner they mentioned their sincere hope
that we would visit them ^{at Hollenegg}, and many times
since, Knor Mitten and pressed me to come,
Prince Alfred calling in person, just before
he left the city for Styria - Prince Henry
came, also, and spoke out plainly for our
convenience, and comfort, all the necessary
of directions, as to hotels, changes of cars,
and above all took an interest in telling
down the names of the old palaces we
must visit on the way up, at Gratz, before
we should reach Deutsch-Landsberg - and
told us, also, what hotel to go to etc. making
all, as delightful and easy for us as pos-
sible - I think we are leave to leave
today, as it is Friday the 13th, but Mrs
Beldy who remains with our bag here,
tells me, that to start afternoon on Friday,
brings one good luck instead of bad.

13th-

So as we leave at 4 o'clock,
instead of before 12 we must
hope for a very safe and
happy journey - Prince
Lichtenstein wrote kindly
warning me to bring my
Children saying, he thought
they would "enjoy" the country,
and my Children would be
so charmed to see them there.
I did not at first dream of
their going but Prince Henry
I - has pressed me very
much to take Julia saying
it would be such a shame

to leave her, and now I have
really begun to think of my-
self, as this visit would be
some thing for her to remem-
ber with pleasure all her
life. I have hurriedly had
a pretty little dress made
for her by a regular dress-
maker, some thing she feels
proud of, and she is over-
joyed at the pleasant pros-
pect before her, though she
had seemed perfectly will-
ing all along to remain at
home. She very affectionately
remarked to me, when I

Just mentioned taking her "Nice Drama"
For know how very much extra it will
cost you and there is no real need of my
going. Now however, she has become quite
enthusiastic. Her brother must stop at home
to have his examinations this week but he
is quite reconciled by my having read to
him all about how the Cadets at West Point,
(so important in his mind), were going through
the same thing - and then he is foregone
at having Mrs Beldy with him who is greatly
attached to him, & he reminds of her son
"little Georgie" Mrs Alcega's son whom she
really brought up entirely - I think to our
young gentlemen feels rather fine when
Mrs Beldy tells him, he is good the master
and head of the house - I found him today
giving the Cook orders as to what
hour he would have dinner and tea,
and how often cherries, etc. ^{must be served} - Is he too
is in for pleasure like ourselves? No
the affection is always the same, one feels
differently about leaving ^{a son} ~~at~~ ^{country} from
a young girl - I am much more content and
so is Fred. What Julia does tell me