

6-23-1890

## Ida H. G. to Ma, June 23, [1890]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Vernon June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1890 (Hollings)

Dear Mr.

I am feeling much distressed  
to hear of Aunt H's serious illness  
It does seem so sad for her to  
live in that strange house  
and city and after so sad a  
life - Everyone of course  
has care and trouble sometime  
but she seems never to have had  
the counterbalancing amount  
of happiness and pleasure that  
other mortals seem to find in  
life - However be comforted al-



ways when I think of her, that  
she really did seem cheerful  
and happier than those who  
have much more. Perhaps  
by this time, she is much better  
and stronger, as so many people  
were so very weak, and then recover  
even after the "Influenza" and probably  
all that Aunt Hooky needed  
was care, attention and rest,  
and now that Aunt Kate is with  
her she will have that all, and  
have courage to recover. The  
last thing I heard was, however,  
that she was very low indeed,  
from sis who mentioned in the  
last two letters Aunt's condition.

I believe I left off in my hat, & for a  
little rest, when I went to retire at "Follengy"  
in the great old fashioned, canopy bed in the  
back room, to which Princeas Liechtenstein came  
me. I can now imagine that after our day of  
excitement and travel, we all slept well, and  
not awakened in time, to take our coffee and  
tea which was brought to the rooms for us, accord-  
ing to the delightful Austrian custom - Then I was  
not quite dressed Princeas Liechtenstein came for  
me back now I slept, and if we would go to  
Church - I hurried into my toilet in order to find  
the Princeas but before I was dressed, the Princeas came.  
He heard in the Chapel, which was just across the  
inner court, directly opposite my window and looking  
out I found about 40 people in their native costumes  
singing and walking in procession from the  
little Church the Priest carrying the Host accom-  
panying to the Custom of the Church here under an elabo-  
rate canopy, held over him by the attendants of  
the Church, & carrying little tapers in the walk, when  
Julius and I were ready, we found Princeas  
Ludwig waiting for us, in one of the galleries

around the <sup>5th</sup> largest entrance  
 Court and there below we saw  
 the whole procession of <sup>singing as they went</sup> ~~Princess~~  
 passing through Prince  
 Leichtenstein with her five sons  
 heading the procession, stopping  
 as they stopped, kneeling for the  
 prayers - We could follow them  
 very well, walking around the  
 whole square with them in  
 the galleries above. Princess Maria  
 in the meantime had come  
 to meet us, both of these young  
 girls looked very sweet and fresh  
 in their pure white dresses,  
 and large hats - All the girls were

Here also, in pure white with  
straw hats, which latter they  
put under their knees each  
time, they knelt in the Court  
below - Very soon Prince Liechten-  
stein, who had called by  
Fred's room for him, and to conduct  
him to where we were, joined  
our little procession in the gallery  
above - His Ceremony, was very  
pretty, of passing through the  
three great courts of the Chateau;  
When the Church was reached  
the peasants all went in below  
to their seats - While Prince Lie-  
chtenstein showed us into the  
little gallery above, set aside for

The family sat over the pulpit or altar at one  
side, which is always arranged in the Chapels  
here for the family of any Princely house, or  
Royalty - as we entered the upper gallery on one  
side Prince<sup>s</sup> Liechtenstein came up into the one  
opposite with her four sons, whom she left there  
when she came around to join us. The Pleasants  
and Prince<sup>s</sup> all seem equally and extremely de-  
vout in following mass, and at the conclusion  
the priest before leaving the Church just  
after kneeling at the Altar, turned and bowed  
to Prince and Prince<sup>s</sup> Liechtenstein, a very pretty  
acknowledgement of thanks for their having  
opened their Chapel and Chateau for their  
neighbors - But this hospitality is most common  
in Austria - Prince<sup>s</sup> & all others here who  
have great Chateaux and gardens from the Empe-  
ror down, opens them to the public at all  
hours - All day Sunday when we took a  
long walk through the gardens and forest  
in former groups of strangers from all the country  
around Officers and Civilians telling about

9th  
Under the trees enjoying the  
scenery and they were also  
permitted to pass through  
all the drawing rooms, galleries  
etc, and in fact in every part  
of the castle except where the  
family were, always having  
as their guide the head steward  
an old man who has served  
the family for years and <sup>who, with his wife,</sup> has  
charge of the Chateau. Prince  
Liechtenstein allows <sup>us</sup> ten <sup>persons</sup> only  
at a time to be conducted  
through the castle.

After we had seen all the  
magnificent park, forest, and fal-

dens, which latter contained  
most wonderful robes, the  
Prince and Prince took us di-  
rectly over the whole Chateau, telling  
all about the old heir looms, etc.,  
its paintings, etc., just when  
they had come into the family,  
which Liechtenstein had add-  
ed to the collection, and then  
the different rooms of the Chateau  
had been built or remodelled.  
The painted silk hangings on  
the walls, and the magnificent  
old tapestries were wonderful.  
The great dining room which  
is a story higher than any other



apartment and Jolly Boy's Square, has been,  
within Prince Alfred's time, detached from  
the paintings in the ceiling were too much de-  
faced & safe, and one part of the ceiling  
represents a balcony or gallery and leaning  
against the railings of that, between the pillars,  
are painted likenesses of the Prince Alfred and  
the Princess with their nine children - Looking very  
interesting and modern, among the other  
paintings - Princess Liechtenstein's apartment  
is very magnificent, and upon her dressing-  
table she has the very valuable and elaborate  
silver toilet-set used always by her mother in  
law, and upon the tables and cabinets about the  
two beautifully set porcelain pictures of her own  
immediately near family, and all the ancestors of  
the Prince and herself - Her daughter's rooms  
are also beautiful, and the young Princess  
Fannie has upon her dressing-table the set of  
Toilet-pieces and very fine magnificent piece  
of silver that a lady could use in her bed-room  
inherited from her grandmother - The father of  
Princess Liechtenstein - All the silver in the house



has of course, upon it, the Family  
 Crest, and all the Coadjuncts  
 and ornaments for saloon  
 or dining-room, have the Coins  
 made by the order of the different  
 heads of the family in their gen-  
 erations - Of course, these Coins  
 are beautifully copied, many in  
 gold and upon them always appear  
 a fine likeness of the Liechtenstein  
 under whose reign they were made,  
 the privilege of coining their  
 own money for their principality,  
 being a sign of their sovereignty.  
 It is always very pleasant to  
 see how happy the descendants <sup>are</sup> to

recognize one, as the head of the  
family, as Prince Alfred stands  
so very much by speaking & proudly  
of, and showing all that pertai-  
ned to, the rank of Henriette's  
father "Prince John The Head of  
our House and family" though  
he himself is considered & plays  
down and laughs here, in  
very hyheat circles - I asked one  
of the young Aristocrats, Count  
Hoyos, why the Liechtensteins  
never appeared in the processions  
and public ceremonies, as he, and  
the other nobles do, and replied  
the Emperor and Arch-Dukes  
who are always there in place,

he replied Oh I know they are the proudest family  
here, though they serve the Emperor and his  
Crown, they are independent Princes a family quite  
to themselves and Prince Alfred is the proudest of  
them all. - He certainly is an Amiable but a most  
charming, courteous and agreeable gentleman - In  
showing us his Chateau, I found his present place  
was his own bed-room occupied by his father  
and grandfather, during their lives - Though  
it is not so large and comfortable, perhaps as the  
room of the Princes and many others of the apartments  
it is wonderfully curious and old, - being in the  
tower, built in 1126 - The Hall is ten or 12 ft  
thick, so there is a little, long narrow passage to  
each window. Each one of these passages being lined  
with curious fine old paintings of ancestors and other  
subjects - His room is simply made of antique; the most  
curious tables and carved chairs some of them centuries  
old - It might have been terrible to see so  
much family pride as Prince Liechtenstein exhibits,  
praised always before one of the Prince himself was  
not so charming, and winningly interesting. And  
now I could only rejoice that he had so much  
treasure and his mans her home when we now  
developed each day his really admirable character.  
Our first day there was passed in looking -

17<sup>th</sup>  
at the old Chateau and its  
Contents until 2 o'clock, then  
we retired to our several apart-  
ments to rest until half past  
three, when dinner was served  
according to the Austrian  
Custom. At ~~our house~~ <sup>we must think morning</sup> <sup>not home</sup> we found  
invited guests to meet us at  
dinner, Cousins of the Lucerne  
Stems, who live down lower  
in the valley, being allowed to  
occupy a Villa <sup>there</sup> of Prince Alfred  
during July and August.  
Which villa he will be leaving  
to go to in Sept, as the air up at  
the Chateau becomes too chilly  
in the fall for them to remain there.

We found the invited guests most agreeable & then  
being amused them, two young girls whom Julia  
had introduced. After dinner we walked and  
sat about in the garden for two hours, when  
tea was served for the departing guests, and Prince  
Alfred told us, we were to drive with them part  
of the way home - 5 Carriages with horses were  
started from the Court with us all, Fred & I were  
in a large carriage with Princess L. and her  
sister - indeed while the Prince kindly invited me to  
drive with him in his high Wagon and offering  
to let me drive <sup>myself</sup> which I was bound to do -

After a charming drive through the forests on  
the Liechtenstein lands, we all stopped, said goodbye  
to the departing visitors, the Prince and Princess  
going on horse to each one to say a particular word.  
When then getting into our seats again, Jocky &  
we shouted with true Austrian politeness the  
Prince taking the lead in waving his hat, etc. - as  
we drove off I laughed and said that was  
all very pleasant. Prince Alfred seemed  
quite gratified, and remarked "You find that  
a pretty scene happens in the midst of our  
forests" Indeed as we remarked Black & other people

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This I saw I that though there  
was the greatest simplicity and  
naturalness in the life of this  
family still each feature and  
scene, we observed was like  
a beautiful picture, one's aesthetic  
sense was being constantly  
gratified. Monday the day  
following we went to the villa  
all of us in carriages, which  
the family occupy in the fall.  
It was situated lower down  
in the valley, but is really an  
immense house in most  
beautiful grounds, there we found  
the Count and Countess Mink  
and their family waiting to re-

ceir us under the trees, and  
walking some distance  
We found a most beautifully  
shaded plateau from which  
one could see all the country  
about and hear such was  
a bowling alley where we played  
ten pins most, vigorously, the  
Prince Princes, their three little  
<sup>who were with us the, the Princesses and</sup>  
sons, Col. Grant Julia and my  
self and all of the Prince's  
family took part in this game,  
and I was more charmed  
than ever with the different mem-  
bers of the family who were  
all bright and in great earnest  
over each others' playing, but



So they considerate and kind to one another in  
all they said and did - The two finest day  
players took place, and were made heroes of  
by all the big people - The Prince put his hand  
est too on his shoulder, and hurried three  
times in which the whole group joined carrying  
out the old custom, of honoring the hero of  
the day - After which we sat around a table  
which was prepared in the woods, and  
ate brown bread and honey, with berries  
cake also - Prince Liechtenstein not joining  
us in any way except to serve the ladies and  
then he quietly smoked a long Turkish pipe  
which he puffed Drupas as much as we did  
our afternoon repast. Later on the Prince &  
Princess took us through the large fine  
villa, which must be a delightful Autumnal  
home for them. The drawing rooms are very  
large indeed and the wood of fine Japanese  
paneling while the panels between are of white  
silk upon <sup>which</sup> was painted Japanese designs  
and figures in large size. The work of



Prince Alois, a younger brother  
 of Prince Alfred, Lieutenants  
 who has great talent for painting  
 and is most accomplished  
 and bright in many ways, &  
 who has a family of four char-  
 ming daughters, the youngest  
 about Julia's age. This Prince  
 Alois L. S. has recently  
 bought great trouble and as  
 they put it, almost a disgrace  
 upon his family of late, by  
 marrying for his second wife  
 a lady of the common class,  
 who is not only so far beneath  
 him in rank, but is "divorced"

Her brothers Prince Alfred and  
Henry are artists and trade  
mentioning him, though they  
are most kind and attentive  
to his four daughters who are  
quite overwhelmed with their  
father's affection.

To return to the Hill. The drawing  
rooms were not only grand but  
all the other rooms most  
fine especially those of the Prince  
and Princess — The drawing  
The Prince being busy with fine  
interesting old steel engraving  
and opening in to the long  
lute Chapel which is of its  
deep blue with ceiling —

We had after our long drive home a  
most appetizing supper at 8 1/2 o'clock, and the  
following morning after one breakfast took  
a long track into the Pine and Pine  
into a part of their forest where we had not been  
before - The Prince's chief pleasure is in <sup>improving</sup> the <sup>land</sup> <sup>the ground</sup>  
laying out of beautiful new parks  
and drives over the estate, and arranging  
cosy, charming surprises for those who are  
going over the place, in the way of drives  
etc - He has no lobby while his father  
did more for the Castle than this Prince  
has done. We deeply regretted leaving on the  
third day but Col Grant felt that he must  
return home - The Lieutenants did all  
they possible could to express their regret at  
our departure and their hope that we would  
return again another time to visit them.  
Prince Liechtenstein also invited Col and  
us for the shooting there in November.  
When our carriages were there for our  
leaving taking the Prince and Princess came

With all their <sup>29<sup>th</sup> in down into the court & the carriage</sup> family & see  
us off, and were really so  
regretful in saying, Goodbye,  
and so cordial in their  
invitations for another time,  
that we could but feel very  
grateful for such hospitality.  
The Princess promised when  
we came another time, to take  
the Duke on long trips up  
into the Alps to another interest-  
ing old Chateau which they  
own, a few miles off, and which  
we could see plainly from  
the Galleries and from the  
Garden of the Castle. There we

we staying - They also ad-  
vised not to stop over in Graz,  
to see the very interesting  
old building there, which  
we greatly enjoyed. Looking  
the Landshaus where were  
stored arms for S. O. O. O. O.  
very old and of different  
designs, which had enjoyed  
immensely - Since our  
return we have had a call  
from Prince Henry, who was  
very sorry not to have been  
there during our visit  
but was detained in the city,  
and was anxious to hear all

What we saw and did during our absence.

We found our little boy perfectly well  
and very happy with Mrs. Beldy to whom he  
is devoted. It was almost the first time  
I have ever left him and would not  
have been satisfied to have remained away  
longer, but all went well with him and  
he passed his examinations perfectly  
during our absence.

We are now planning to go off  
on our little journey through  
Germany the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and I am  
looking forward with the greatest  
pleasure as you may imagine, to seeing  
some other countries.

I shall hope to see Leo some time this  
summer and have a full visit from  
her and her family.

Love to all. Yours aff.

Edw. H. C.