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Ida H. Grant to Ma, July 10, 1890

Ida Honoré Grant

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Münch July 10th 7/90

Dear Ma 'We have been having a most
delightful journey since we left Vienna,
the 2nd of July, whence we went immediately
to Munich the great Art Centre where we
saw so much of real interest that we quite
forgot to complain of the miserably wet &
rather which we had, all during our stay
in that city. We were much fatigued after
our trip from Vienna to Munich starting at
7^{1/2} in the morning, and travelling until 6
o'clock in the evening, though our interest
was kept up in the scenery all the way
along the route by Fred, who with guide-
book in hand, called our attention to every
mountain, rock, rivulet, and all the

Chateaux that are mentioned by those who
have passed that way before. We were, of
course, especially interested in the castles of
those, whom we now know personally -
a beautiful Chateau of the present reigning
Prince of Liechtenstein, one that Prince Henry
L. has proposed to take us out to see very
thoroughly when we have returned to Vienna,
in the fall. Then we saw the old Chateau de
"Belk" which is occupied by the Emperor at
most every summer, and the one farther
on which is occupied by the present heir
apparent the eldest brother of the Emperor
Carl Ludwig, and his family. The still
some distance on the road we found the
beautiful country home of the Emperor's
brother of the Emperor of Austria, and his

Victor. Here this Arch-Duke lives in Summer and then
his family all the year - He is most delicate looking
and it is said suffers from the family Malady Epilepsy to
such an extent that his mind has been slightly weak-
ened by the frequent attacks of his disease. Certainly
he is the least interesting member of the Royal family
whom we have met. He has greatly displeased the
Emperor by marrying a person of very low rank, the
daughter of a glazier who it seems was not only very hand-
some but extremely bright and has kept herself so
aloof, never intruding upon the family of her husband -
until at last the Emperor himself has seen fit to acknowl-
edge her as the wife of Ludwig Kiehl, and made her a
Countess, though of course, she can never be received at
Court or be considered an Arch-Duchess. Speaking
of this terrible inheritance of Epilepsy in the family
of the Hapsburgs, it is a well known fact that the father
of the present Emperor suffered so much the same dis-
ease that he took little or no part in the Government
of Austria, and though the Emperor Francis Joseph
is a well, strong energetic man, his youngest child
the pretty Arch-Duchess Valerie, who is to be married this
month at Lodi, to Salvatore. The young Arch-Duke (whose
father is the brother of the Grand Duke of Saxe-Coburg) has
always been subject to the same illness, though she is
now better than when young, and those who have
her health in charge think she will eventually over-
come the Malady entirely. She is the favorite child of
the Empress who has kept her right at her side, since
the death of the Crown Prince -

The Emperor's favorite is his other daughter Giselle
who married the Duke of Bavaria a long
time - though she in contrast to her sister,
Valerie, is very ugly -

Julia went to the Exposition on Munich a few
days ago, to see the Statues and Paintings.

And upon her return told me that she and
 Papa had just seen the Eldest daughter of
 the Austrian Emperor, who was going through
 the Exposition with some of her ladies in
 waiting - When I asked how she looked, John
 remarked well, I mean she certainly is
 the very ugliest lady, I ever saw, and
 was the most unbecomingly and most
 dressed - her waist being drawn in to an
 unnatural size and the rest of her dress
 hanging in bags all over - I had
 heard before how homely she was, but wanted
 the frank opinion of a young person -
 She is good, however, though homely, thus forming
 an exception ^{to the rule} laid down by the Russian
^{Ambassador} ~~Minister~~, Prince Labanow at Vienna. He
 informed me and several other friends a
 few days ago that he could not excuse a
 woman for being ugly, as they ^{women} were not only

disagreeable to look at ^{open} but always very
disagreeable and mean in Character growing
up naturally, in envy and jealousy of their
more attractive sisters — Lisette the Arch
Vice, is not however, the only exception to
Prince Sabanow's rule, but he may be ex-
cused for his ignorance of feminine nature
as he is an old bachelor of 70 years —
and I must add that George, when I
and other ladies present differed with
him, he immediately and diplomatically
assured us, that we could know nothing
whatever of the point in question — As
usual I have run quite off the track and
am in my self discussing feminine stuff
when I ought to be telling you of Prince's
attractions — The gallery ^{of old masters} was of course, what
I most enjoyed, when we saw all the
Mussuris, Raphaels Rubens etc. and Thorpe

I how really long ago it was, that Dad and I had
been here, with Mrs. Palmer and Aunt Laura, enjoying
the same old painting, and beautiful city, and how
little I dreamed then, that I would be there with my
two big children later on. We were all most industrious
in Munich, and saw all the galleries of modern paint-
ings, as well as the old ones, and also, went through every
public building and church of the slightest interest
and walked up every street and along the Isar and
indeed "did the whole place", so thoroughly, that I am
quite sure that the children have imprinted indelibly
on their minds all that is of the slightest interest in the
Capital of Bavaria. I think the palace now is much
more interesting than before the time of poor Ludwig
II, as his mind was such a jumble of Art-fancies and
crazy ideals, that Munich bears a strong impress of his
rule, in the great paintings, statues etc. which he had
added to the collections his father began. The hotel
where we stopped in Munich was simply crowded
with Americans, and we who had come determined
to hear or speak a word of English, could not prevail
upon a waiter or employee, to speak German, as they
were all evidently employed on account of their fluency
in English by the proprietors of the "Bavarian Hotel" who
had made arrangements with one of the Agencies for tickets
to the "Oberammergau" to make all Americans feel
there, comfortable. It was simply laughable to go into
the great dining hall and see the crowds from our
country, who always seem to travel in large parties. We
only knew personally, two parties here, Mrs. and Mr. Dy-
kstra of Cincinnati, and their friends whom we had
just entertained in Vienna before leaving home, and
Mr. Snyder the Jewish banker from Chicago, with his
family, who live north diagonally across from Lake on
Michigan Ave. - whom we also dined in Vienna.

9th

We stopped one evening in the Reading-Room after dinner to speak to the Symonds, and a party of five Americans came on to salute Fred bringing with them their Autograph Albums for him to write in, as they said they so much admired his father, and as soon as they heard he was in the house they had determined to get his Autograph. As soon as he had written in their book, he advised them to get his son's autograph, as his name was really a good one, upon which they applied to our boy for his Autograph, which he wrote with great pleasure but very irregularly.

We found the weather terribly Chilly and Changeable in Munich as the City is of such high Altitude and so near the mountains and Julia and I were very glad to visit

ourselves of your kindness using part
of the Check you sent for a very handsome
thick cloak for each of us, My young
Lady as you know wears a much longer
and larger cloak now than her Ma.
I got her a very stylish light brown about
the shade of her travelling hat and dress
and myself a long dark blue - with felted
Cape - I trained everyone of the 6 days we
were in Munich either in the morning or after
noon, but as I said before we were "nothing
dramatic" and saw everything. I don't
if more industrious and active Americans
every thing considered, ever in Munich
before - There is all business on this journey
and is doing things methodically - We were
set up early, which you know for us, is
really wonderful. We have started out
to do all and see all, that is possible
in the 60 days, so that we will be there

We have seen the country thoroughly, that we have passed
through, and I don't think many Americans take so
thorough a route as we have. We went from Munich
to Augsburg a most curious, old fashioned German
town where the Art gallery was most interesting, and
contained some old Holbeins' and Leonard's & Minier
etc - and the Halls and Town Hall - here some things
really funny and worth looking at. We spent a
day and night in Augsburg and from there went to
Regensburg or Ratisbone, where Napoleon fought
a battle and was wounded, facts that were thoroughly
drilled into our boy's mind by his Papa and seemed of
vital importance to them both. At Regensburg we saw
really the two most interesting Cathedrals that we have
seen at all and you may be sure we have visited
many, going through every one under God's command

who is indignant if we miss a stone or pillar and who
follows instructions of the Guide-book to the letter as he
says so we will see and know things thoroughly. At
Regensburg we saw after the grand old Cathedral St Elizabeth's
Chapel which was built in the 11th Century and has with
wonderful relics. We were greatly amused here in making
enquiries for the old Chapel, and thinking we had found
it - asked an old woman, who was sweeping the steps of
the Church, what Church it was and she turned looking
at it as if the idea had never really struck her that she
might know said well that I don't know - then asking
an old man who was helping her and taking up the
trash from the stones in front of the building if he knew
the name of that Church he replied that he wasn't sure
but if we would go around to a little door at the side
an old woman would give us the desired information.
I did seem rather curious that we people from the
"other side" should be so interested in some thing that

The town people were asked or tricked to know about. Every Church and Building we have gone into we have seen thoroughly by the help of some guide, who each and everyone has taken a funny interest in us. The Germans seem very sociable, after being among the Austrians, they seem always ready for a chat, and the guide every time looks at us well and from Fred's appearance and high gray hat, they seem to always decide we are English, but when we say "oh no Americans" they throw their hands and rattle off in German "Many many Americans have come this year going all to the 'Kron-Mergan' etc. - Indeed it does seem that all the Audiences this year at the 'Passion Play' are from America and no other people seem to be going. There have been

already several extra performances of
the piece already for the unexpected
crowds, and I fear the play will lose much
of its originality and religious tendency
when there is such a general working up
over it, by our rich people from home, the
poor peasants may get to have the look of
appliance and gain, which comes naturally
to most actors of this kind up. We are so
discouraged with seeing the great crowds,
and the money-bringing tendency of those who
have the play in charge that we shall
not attempt to get there until later if at
all. Everyone says seats can only be had
by those who engaged them a month ago.

My idea was that if no came over we would
all meet travel together in August, and go
to the Oberammergau the last of that month,
and from there to Vienna where the Mr
Palmer and the boys should have made
us the visit we expected. We all

are now intensely interested in Nürnberg which is a most
curious and funny old town, with all the walls and
fortifications still standing that were built by Henry
the 1st in 1050, and as the guide books all tell us, is more
Medieval in appearance than any other of Germany and in-
deed after seeing the great old palace, the towers of the
Castle, the old fortifications and streets and the Ceme-
tery with its magnificent old tombs of 1050 - we cannot help
realizing how very fine and grand these early Germans
were - The residences are really magnificent with their
giant gables and carvings and the different sections
the streets of the city are simply beautiful most of
them carved by great artists - We have been exceedingly
interested in seeing the early home, the tomb, and
the great monument in the city of "Hans Sachs" one of
Wagner's heroes - Here also we have the beautiful model of
Dürer's monument - We were much interested in this statue as
we have been seeing the paintings by Dürer in Munich
and every other city we have visited - Yesterday we
went all through the old palace part of some of the
ancient rooms having been fitted up for the present
Emperor of Bavaria, who is kept as the poor king is insane.
The old castle was built in 1024 by Conrad II and we
greatly enjoyed the original parts and old walls
and of course were horrified and terrified to a flood-
carding degree, when we looked ^{upon} all the old instru-
ments of torture used to punish the wicked in those
ancient times, especially the Iron Virgin, whose hollow
figure received all those who were spiked to death
upon seeing which, Fred with a natural tendency to sym-
ment, treated us to a discourse upon the subject of
how much more cruel our modern mode of hanging
is than the ancient one of spiking and chopping up.
After all the horrors of the torture rooms and then
a long walk through the old cemetery filled with
monuments done by really fine artists we returned
quite content to our quaint old fashioned hotel, where

1792
We found a good warm supper awaiting
us, and very moderately comfortable beds, I
say moderately so, because I cannot
positively accustom myself to having no
coverings, but the fat dumpty feather
pillows which are to place over us,
but not long enough to reach to ones
toes. I begged earnestly at the hotel in
Munich for other coverings, and the maid
after much search found a good little blanket
that could be spared me. In the old fashioned
hotel or inn at Augsburg where the ceilings
were so low we could touch them, when
standing, and the floors were quite
bare. I was forced to use my beautiful
new blue cloak, which I had gotten as
a present from John, to wear over my
nightgown in order not to freeze. Here in

Winnipeg the brilliant idea has struck me that
I might buy some yds. of flannel, to lap-
over the particularly damp sheets in the evening,
and save time to be carried in the school
bag. I can think of no excuse for my
complaints or reason for our suffering, except
that we Americans are simply spoiled in ex-
pecting to be comfortable ^{all} our lives. It is
specially impressed upon me that we ex-
pect too much luxury, when I see the old
stone stairs that people over here, go up and
down all their ^{lives} and the damp halls of freezing
temperature that they are accustomed to
"abroad" - A palace in Europe, means grandeur,
history and art, but less comfort than one
may find, in any little cheap block-house in
America. These little houses I have learned
since I have been over here, are simply
empireans and are apt to be blown over
a little too easily, in case of wind-storms.
In thinking of this, I am always glad that my
European acquaintances did not see "Landville".

Colorado as I saw that new town about 8 years ago.

Prince Henry Luchtenstein Confided to me privately that when he was in our Western Country, he saw many little wooden bird-cages propped up on long wooden sticks which the people called their homes. He was pretty well on talking, however, about the quantities of gold that people were finding there and said he had no doubt but that those little homes were turned into palaces within a few days, with American magic and energy. These older people, must indeed regard our rapid growth, with wonder, when they live in homes that were built 7 or 8 hundred years ago. When I remember of the large, dark, damp halls over here, they tell me I really like them unconsciously, and that when I go back I will probably find our American homes very small and contracted. I begin to think that there might be a possibility of our people, planned our multi-cities, looking only to those who have lived all their lives where there was absolutely no ~~regulating~~ regulating. Where streets turn and curve without rule, and houses have had their windows and roofs added of accident, and of different generations of people.

The son of the Turkish Ambassador in speaking of Berlin a few days ago, said, that after Constantinople, Berlin seemed immensely clean and regular. There was nothing attractive about it, though it might be practical. He could not endure it on that account.

We are stopping in the house this afternoon, on account of the hard rain storm without. And having creased our dresses, and sent much linen to wash, feel that we are quite refreshed to start out tomorrow to see all the churches, buildings, and the Art Gallery which Fred has marked off as our line of duty for the day.

We are really taking a luxurious rest here, Julia and I celebrating the festival, by sitting around or lounging for the afternoon, and Fred by buying two very long cigar cigars which more than make up for those he has done without, since we left home. He partially

(He knew me to be ^{2/1st} ~~unbelieving~~)
declared to himself, that he would smoke much
less than usual, during this journey, but
at extra times like this, no doubt, he makes
up for what he generally ^{misses} during the trip, of good
old times' smokes. A telegram, which went
to Vienna, has been forwarded to me, which says
"Recht-India Camera für me, Berlin" which Fred
and I translate into the meaning, that his wishes
are to buy as a present from her, a Camera for
India, 'if this is so, certainly, it is very, very kind
and thoughtful of his and really doing to him.
I and the both think of us too much, and
we really do not know how to express our ap-
preciation — Mr. Chess telegraphs from Vienna
to know if he can meet the person for us, spoken
of in the Chicago telegram — These mistakes &

and mixing of German and English.
in telegram is ~~not~~ about - Last summer he
arrived one from ~~the~~, who was only an
hours distance away from me, that his
such a trouble, that I could not make it
out and ~~the~~ ^{the messenger spent} said time in German.
"I think Madame that must be French"
tho'ing he was not as nice as I in recog-
nizing at least an effort, at his own saying
Julia has passed her 14th birthday (which per-
haps his was remembering), and I do
not now feel that it was very long ago, when
I was 14 years old myself, which is quite ap-
parent in an old lady of 36 years. Fred is now
40 years old, and fears very much that the
size of his waist is gradually increasing -
The change I notice in myself is, that I am
getting rapidly, even the natural gray hair of our

family. If I must very astorpidly suffer I ought to do so over there, as it is so much cheaper than at home. I am quite terrified over the intensely hot weather you are having in Chicago, according to the papers - There it seems you have every thing in its highest degree.

I must tell you of this and home, in fine order, for 1893, as then thousands of these Europeans are going over, as they say, to see that New Place they hear so much about. I shall then be so kind of his' magnificent home and objects of art therein. He must know I may take out there in sisterly guide, some Prince Sueden Stein or perhaps Carl Ludwig so Fred and they have done an immoderate amount of talking about their projected trip to America. His is rather safe home as I am quite satisfied, if all goes well with us, to remain abroad until after that time, since we have, ourselves, no home to ask our foreign friends to, when they are in our country which would surprise them tremendously as they seem to think Carl Grant's eldest son would have a castle or great chateau of his own. Fred and I have heard of a very cheap place in France, cheaper than mine & place called Buge or something like that, where people can live for nothing in a palace, and perhaps we could stop so there, until our foreign friends have returned from our country, and so lay by enough to get home ourselves. After our well friends have all entertained us it might be embarrassing for us to visit them there - We have had a very charming winter but I must acknowledge that my sister and brother treated us unmercifully and I think if I am at all familiar with my own character that this will not happen again next season. With Mrs. Bee's help I propose to change my household and not have two men in the apartment besides Harry who is in attendance at the Legation and also our footman. I find that here as well as in America men are more apt to steal than women. This is the business

25^m
of all servants over here to look their masters,
the cook and butlers having, always, between them,
the privilege of buying everything for the house,
and it is more than a lady's life is worth
to change these customs unless she does it
very cautiously and by superior manage-
ments - I was a long time learning the ins &
outs of these affairs, but now I believe I have
acquired some information about keeping
house in Virginia, which is of course, made
especially difficult and expensive for an Ameri-
can, by her servants. And now besides, I be-
lieve I am somewhat hardened to the
feeling that some Americans may go back
home with the firm conviction, that the rich
Ministers Phelps, Reid and even Lincoln,
do better for them abroad, than Grant, though
the fact, as always, stares me in the face, that
to appear well and up to the mark, is just
for the ~~the~~ cause and advancement, and I

try to account for our having the pleasant
position in the fact that we were sup-
posed to be a couple "who would do as they
ought to do and appear as they ought. & ap-
pear over here in Europe." - I see there
are many contending emotions arouse
when I contemplate this matter of our trying
to get ahead a little but the real facts in the
case may be that Fred and I are simply
extravagant; the fact is our children may
be more sensible, as they have taken to sav-
ing every penny and recommending econ-
omy. Julia helps me count up the butter & coal
ing, and always says in the end, like Aunt
Laura, "well you had better just stop giving
dinners" - I shall try to strike a comprom-
ise, and imitate the foreigners, who are
really most simple in their living - In
the meantime we are rejoicing in the

Cheap sales of Germany, as a mark here, goes further than
a florin in Vienna — Fred told me I could get a lot
of linen here, and have it sent to us in Oct. when he
would pay for it, but I scorned the idea, and when he
stopped for an hour, looking at pretty plates in Munich
with all the beauties of the gallery painted on them, I
ridiculed his extravagance, thereby, arousing his
mortification, and my admiration for my own vein
of economy. We are really studying history, art,
and all that's beautiful, travelling industriously with
the resolution not to buy, though I shall miss your
present as I really prefer and think it very lovely
to have the money with to get what we need. That is
the very wisest present one can have a check book,
gradually — and as one chooses.

We have seen the magnificent Old Cathedral and
"St. Sebalds Chapel," as well as "St. Lawrence" Church
and the "Germanic National Museum," here, at Münn-
chen, all of which are so filled with works of art, their
beloved Münnich's paintings, Raffaele's cuttings in stone
and the beautiful wood carvings, and stained glass
windows, that even the ordinary mortals of modern
days and of the new land are magnifying, ourselves
quite artists, and try to make room for such new
work of beauty to leave a lasting impress on our over-
laden minds. The children and I will take no
interest now in looking at any painting, but those of
the best old masters; this will last probably till after
we have finished our stay in Dresden. Our little
boy trots around in the rain, holding an umbrella
over him, looking at fine "facades" and ^{"Kloster Brunnen"} artistic wells,
with as much interest as any of us, and the only re-
mark of Byronicism and Childhood left in him is that
he will pull rolls and pieces of bread from his
pockets at all hours, and begin to eat, even when in-
spired by holy pictures, much to my horror and his

Sisters' mortification - We go tomorrow or
next day to "Wiesbaden" - where we will
remain a day and will see a wonderful
old palace, etc - After that we will stop
by "Hessingen" to call on Leutner and Mrs
Stangorsh, who have been such good
friends of ours, and who expected to
join us in Vienna during this month.
We wish to pay them the attention of
going there to see them, as we wanted to be-
certain them at home and could not do so
without giving up part of our trip and that
leave - From Hissingen, where we will only
remain a day we go to many little places
of historical interest before reaching Alex-
den - I am very glad that this is so thor-
ough, as it keeps us up to the mark, and
we shall see Germany very thoroughly - We have
so far, avoided meeting anyone, but suppose

that of Mr Phelps is in Berlin - we shall see him and
family, though they are more apt to be away from
the city - at this time, as will be the case with our
Ministers at St. Petersburg if we go there. The fact is
that after a full carrying out of our own social
duties at Vienna, in meeting Americans and foreigners,
we are not at all averse to a quiet, easy, journey
free from society, with its dinners, dissipation etc.

I do hope my family are not ~~displeased~~ displeased
with my scraps which are really too informally and
carelessly written to be licensed. Writing always finds
me much more now when I have no superfluous time
and if you will put up with Terrible handwriting, I
like to tell you all we are doing, and if not too much
trouble ask you to throw the letters a box all together
so perhaps it will be a fuller history of our doings
and seeing in Europe, than if I tried to keep a
full journal - for myself hereafter -

Edw. has bought me a most atrocious envelope
which he tells me is the only one here, in Brunswick.
I would hold one of my epistles to you. I really
would like to know if you are frightened by the size
of this, when it reaches you, and wish one of the boys
would mention it if they ever find time to send me
one of their beautifully bound and written letters -
which always arouse a circulation in me, when I see
them, by the way, and I always make up my mind to
take more pains the next time -

I am hoping you will hear from her when I get
to Sweden, and know why she did not come over and
what she is going to do this year! - I am also most
anxious to hear from your house how it is inside out
how it is furnished, how much Aunt Laura made in
selling her little house, which seemed to me very pretty.
I think you all visit her seldom, but am most grateful
for the last letters of his, Brad, and ask that the children & I often in