

2-10-1891

## Ida Honoré Grant to Ma, February 10, 1891

Ida Honoré Grant

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Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> 1891.

dear Ma, I was most dis-  
frated, to find, yesterday,  
a long letter, which I had  
written you some time ago,  
in the drawer of my desk,  
not yet sent! - And per-  
haps you too, have thought  
it strange not to have heard  
from me, for some time,  
as I peculiarly overwhelmed  
you with letters or nonsense.  
I have been much en-  
gaged since writing you



The latter, with the Ind Chi-  
men who have had very  
thorough cases of the  
"measles" and which has  
been quite an epidemic  
here, and which the people  
are much afraid of -

The high aristocrats are  
guarded from it, all  
their lives and so they  
have a mortal terror of it -  
When they are grown, as it  
often then proves fatal, so  
very precaution is taken  
in every way and there

is more just over the disease  
than if it were the small-  
pox by the Drs. in charge  
who are responsible - Conse-  
quently we have been very  
quiet during these weeks,  
but I should not have  
been able to go out anyhow  
with the children sick -

Julia is just getting over  
the measles, nicely and will  
have her bath tomorrow <sup>then it is finished</sup> -  
She took the sickness from  
her brother who brought

it home from school and  
he has been very ill since  
it causing us real anxiety.  
He had a cough and  
cold before, and the weather  
being fearful, that is "snowing"  
he took more cold going  
to school, every day. The  
last day he was up, he  
wanted to go skating, and  
as it was bright and clear  
Fred and I took him &  
that was the printing up.  
He had vowed every day  
that he was perfectly well

5th -

but I had been noticing  
how very pale he was for 3  
days, and when we returned  
from the skating, he was  
very white and complained  
of a terrible pain in his  
back which he never had be-  
fore, in his life, and was  
coughing so that I put him  
in bed, sent for the doctor  
who upon listening to his  
cough and examining his  
throat said he had the  
"measles" and that it was  
trying to come out, the

fact being that it had  
settled in the Kidneys, which  
was most serious for a  
week, after which time the  
measles broke out in full  
all over him, much to the  
Dr's satisfaction as he had  
struck to the fact, that it  
was the measles inside, and  
must come out. Of course  
all this has left him weak  
and delicate though he  
is quite well, in the  
chest and kidneys, he  
has a tendency to sore throat

which is now much  
better - He has had his  
bath - Yesterday and is up  
today, but of course he  
will not be able to go  
out, for some time, as the  
early mornings in March  
when he goes to school are  
so chilly and cold - It  
was very bad of course  
for him to have taken the  
cold, which retarded the  
disease, and sent it in  
every direction, but the  
right one - The Dr. says,

that he will be very sensi-  
tive to colds, all this Spring.

The comfort now is, that  
the Children are well  
look'd of them, and that I  
had to keep one all the  
time, the same, Mrs. Bledy,  
(Mrs. Allen's old nurse,) who  
has absolutely done  
every thing, and is a  
real wonder as well as a  
comfort, as she has had  
all experiences and is  
of such good principles as



9<sup>th</sup>

All as before -

Now we have before us the ques-  
tion of Fred's taking his leave  
~~leave now~~, instead of during  
the summer, and going to  
Naples and then later see  
all of Italy, which is of course  
my great desire to see once  
while we are in Europe, and  
we must go in the spring  
always, as there are dangers  
of fever in the fall, especial-  
ly in Rome. Whenever



We have thought of going,  
it has been always the ques-  
tion of breaking up the Chil-  
dren's schooling, etc, which  
I did not like to do when  
they were going on so well,  
and you know, we have  
to break up our colatish-  
ment when we do take  
a trip, as the expenses here,  
when the house is open,  
make it impossible for us  
to go. That we have counted  
all up and decided  
that we, whenever we want  
to travel, ~~we~~ must all go

together, and stop the ex-  
penses here. There is such  
an idea among the servants  
about rank, and a minister,  
and especially as we are for-  
eigners, the expenses are  
just as great when the chil-  
dren are at home with  
proper protectors, as when we  
are here. Our salary does  
not a certain way, and  
travelling is more than  
staying at home in money  
always. — So for that, as the  
children will not study  
for a while, now, we are

Considering the question  
of going where I want  
one time to go - I find  
the children as ready for  
a trip, as I am and hav-  
ing consulted the Dr. find  
that he thinks it a fine  
idea, though not absolutely  
necessary, still much  
better than being here in  
March, which is the most  
windy, & disagreeable month  
as it is always in cold cli-  
mates, and the children  
would be much confined  
to the house, whereas in

13<sup>th</sup>

The South of Italy, where we  
would go first, they would  
be out of doors all day.  
Then we must come home  
by Rome and Venice  
later; places which I natu-  
rally wanted to see. By  
all going together and  
managing carefully, we  
must get on nicely and  
comfortably in travelling.  
The only regret I should  
have in this arrangement  
is that Sir might be com-  
ing over to hand in England

later and we could not  
go there to meet her, but  
we hoped he at home to  
receive her here, in the  
last of April, when, and in  
May, we are fully counting  
upon her visit - promised  
to us - When we have  
taken our leave, then  
we can't have it again.

I have wondered when  
we would find a chance  
to break up in the spring  
and go to Italy and now  
this rather strikes us this  
at a poor time - Later we

would have to be in Vienna  
for the summer and when  
it got too warm I put in  
the night in the suburbs.

Tomorrow evening I  
am going to the reception of  
Princeas Reuss, the German  
Ambassador, and will  
wear a little soft white  
Cape dress, with gold  
embroidery, very lovely,  
which Macoll has made  
for me - Saturday we  
dine with his friends  
the Podolskys - first



With Princess Reuss  
Will have another of her  
large receptions — My  
dearest, thanks to you, and  
Lis are so fine and proud  
that everyone is talking  
to me about them. You  
have both conspired to  
shame me very magnifi-  
cent this winter.

I am very very sorry to  
have heard from Mr  
Prescription in N. Y.,  
that the "package" I sent  
to Chicago, was opened

17<sup>th</sup>

before he "knew of it, by  
The Custom House Officials  
So there was nothing for  
him to do, but pay the duties  
as we requested him to -  
And let the things go on  
as the men arranged them,  
And he feared some of  
them might be injured  
This I fear also, and the  
things seem too insignificant  
to have been so much  
talked of and to have  
taken so long to go. Sent  
them 3 weeks before Christ-



was and they have just  
given them this month  
all injured. The only  
beauty of the fair was  
the delicacy of them. We  
thought the one we  
chose for her was quite  
pretty, of course nothing  
compared to all the  
lovely ones, she has al-  
ready.

I sent a fan to Mrs  
Harrison and she seemed  
immensely pleased  
with it. — Don't bring

to write to her in a few days  
as I have been intending  
to do but was prevented  
by the measles "chez nous"  
I want to tell her why  
I think we might not  
have been able to take  
our summer trip <sup>any how</sup> owing  
to the curious behavior  
of the Secretary's wife, who  
keeps her husband most  
anxious, as she is tho-  
roughly discontented  
it seems, every where and  
with everyone. She tries

to do well, but the ruin  
the house and to leave  
the least a little "lightly"  
and I think he does  
not know what a day  
may bring forth.  
He might make him  
reign in a moment  
anytime. This must  
not be spoken of, as it  
is our place not to dis-  
cuss an appointment  
made by the President  
to please if any of the  
Says' hear of this ask for  
me that it shall not be

Mentioned. — Anything  
 said through me by the  
 family would appear as if  
 coming from Fred, who  
 is making a great point of  
 keeping most things hard  
 so fast we know always —

Mr. Chew is a very well-trained  
 good person for the place —  
 and her father is the one  
 who has the influence we  
 think — I think he has  
 been ill, which is the cause of  
 her behaviour —

I write this letter also for his  
 and Aunt Laura, and will write

to them later.

We do not want Mrs G to  
think the Children ill as  
she gets so excited so I am  
just writing to her that they  
are now both well.

Now they only have  
left the Mumps and  
the "Scarlet fever" Stakes  
and I hope the latter  
they will never have.

All Love in regards  
All at home, Affectionately

Ida Honor Grant