

5-26-1889

Ida H. G. to Sis, May 26, [1889]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Sunday -

May 26th
(1889?)

Dear Sir,

I received Motley's book
with the greatest pleasure,
as I have heard many
speak of reading it.
I was very glad of you to
send it. I hope you
are enjoying Paris, and
seeing all the pictures
and many people -
There has the greatest

possible happiness, in
sunning the letter to White
and Reid - She is a plain
burly Miss, good little
body, and the idol of her
father Mr. Miles, who heaps all
he has upon her - I think
they miss him very proudly in
Paris - He is very cheerful
and handsome - He
pretends really to be a most
ardent friend of Freds
and wrote an Editorial

at the same time, his paper has been just-
exactly like the Medic in Chicago. There
feel so one, as his manner. But would
seem to acquire us. Be guarded in what
you say about Fred, ^{Reid is a great B. man} Blaine etc. And if
you speak of us to the Reids, I wish you would
take pains to let them know just how delighted
we are with Virginia. Genl Grant's Military
Jame. We find it is a great thing for Fred here
more than it would be any where in the

Wells and money less necessary. This is all
Military. The Emperor never wears a Civilian's
uniform except on one day of the year, and
every man in the nation, Aristocrats and all,
must have been, or be now, in the Army, other
wise they are in disgrace. We went a few
evenings ago to Prince Kotschka's (he being
for the Emperor) and we were treated with marked
Cordials. The Prince himself bringing many
of his guests to introduce us to them, a truly

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not travel, as Mr. New had
been drilled before we went
there by officials, & think Mr.
Shaner felt quite free to
change and that he would
be obliged to request an order
of protection or presentation to
those whom he wished to
meet. The Prince's Mother
nick named Cakes with us in
formally at the loan exhibition,
clarified me as an acquaint-
ance at Honolulu's, without
introduction. He came away feeling

Quite different from the way
in which we eat. The life
here is most simple, and the
Austrians, being poor, do not
give balls and dinners even
in the gay season, but only
cut a grand Glurge on
certain important occasions.
Then they come out in the
magnificent jewels which are
inherited in their families
for ages back. - The highest
society is quite small, and

all are related to each other having
inter-married - In our official exchange
of calls here, we have already formed the ac-
quaintance of some great personages - After
these ceremonies Mr B to the Country - He goes
to day to call upon the English Ambassador
Ragot, and makes an engagement with Lady
Ragot for me to the evening - He calls by appoint-
ment tomorrow, upon the French and the Italian
Ambassadors, has met the Swiss representation

We have higher rank here than any of the
Ambassadors - Every thing is rank and Cer-
emony, and when we go to the Opera the Ministers
Carriages have the right of way before every one
and all the Officials in line on every side have
their hats run low low when we pass and as I
was - Thus the other day, I fear we really will be
spoiled, and find it very hard to go back when we
have scarcely enough to live on or buy our
shoes - This Mas Ceremony and State is much more

It is impossible really than life at
"The White House" where everyone
has the privilege of revolving
upon for and completely ora-
bolizing for, and then Critti-
cizing for severely afterwards.
In this way it is of course a
more grand sort of Court,
than that of England or
France, but we shall keep
the fearful realities of life
as clearly before us, as we have
always been obliged to do in
the fact, and simply get out
of this ^{life}, what pleasure we may.

It has been a saving Clause
like this, coming to us occa-
sionally, which has prevented
the complete story of life being
entirely stole to Fred and me.

I want to speak to the
Kirk and Lucius of how
beautifully we are secured
in this most Military of Courts,
because we are rather out
of the way of general news, and
the Kirk will be right in
the center. It is hard to
believe, but it seems more

Comfortable here, than any other place in which
I have before found myself. Mr. Har- and
Many Americans, among others Arthur Ryerson
and his bride, Mrs Mrs Milling, the Frokes of
Illinois, and others - Arthur Ryerson seemed
on the lookout for news, and among other things
informed me, that he thought Kate M. McCormick
would find coming to London much to her
liking; and that as Mrs Lincoln was so quiet
and Robert McCormick was so retiring, he
thought it would all rest, in Mr Lincoln and

Late Mr. Mc. joining hands and doing the
Society and all, up together, he added however,
"Nothing improper of course!" I told him I didn't
think that Mrs Lincoln was apt to be left out en-
tirely - He said poor R. Mc. C. had been made to
give up a good business he had just entered
into to give his wife this chance and that she
would probably bring some over, and they
would have some time in London - He
said of course it was a sacrifice of the hus-
band, as it was nothing in any way for a man

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of Mrs apc and family to
be the 2nd Sec. of Legation.

Now as to poor Mrs Welby
I found her in bed, looking
I may frankly say, frightful
from every point of view, but
met as sparkling in conversation
and as agreeable in manner,
in fact, flattering as ever.
She was propped up with
pillows, her two children and
Mr Welby in the room.
She reading, studying
(most improving) books, but
really I could not help wishing

Now someone would have the
Charity to give her a good bath,
Brush her hair, and if necessary
Put some particular Preparation
on it, to make it look black,
Clean her nails and put a
Really Clean M. upon her. - Truly
Beale is the only person living, who
looks so ill as Mrs. Walling, but
in simple Cleanliness, there is no
Comparison between the two.

However, Mr. Cant. has
every thing, and Mrs. W. is cer-
tainly most charming intellec-
tually, and if Mr. Walling is

Intrepid, & by & honest & their Complaint of her loss
& restlessness — I began by saying poor Mrs. Willing,
because she is not only ill, herself, but her son
Mark, has had the Florentine fever and it
has left him with some permanent lesions
growth in his throat, over which she has been
having consultations of physicians here, and
it is now thought, some operation must be per-
formed which she dreads. Mr. Willing is much
excited — She told me also, that she had a
violent hemorrhage of the lungs after her father

die, and she was obliged to leave home -
on account of her health. When we see this, she is
most industriously travelling and studying, if the
Moor House is ~~some~~ ^{at all}, they are to start
immediately for the "North Cape" - I came home ^{from her}
impressed very much with the fact that we in
our family do not say appreciate our health
and the strength we have had. Robt. Foster
once said to me you and I can have such by-
gones, but there must be something to
depend in the future - Heating of feet
The Children's Whooping Cough is some thing

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Reminders, for by the
time we go to the country
The Dr thinks we shall not
be needed at all. In fact
There has been an epidemic of
it here, this winter, and all
are thought with it. I don't
know just when we will go
for the summer months any-
where to be quiet for the sum-
mer as I am more interested
in our settlement for the fall.
The Americans seem to think
little indeed who stay in a
hotel any length of time.

Now as to my I might
need in the way of Clothing
As for the Shopping here
Excellent, Much Cheaper than
at home, and as food in every
way except of course, in certain
things - I was yesterday helped
by our shelves to see how many
clothes I have, not only for
the summer but for next
winter - I came away plen-
dily arranged for, and really
have much more than I
will need, except perhaps

in even more grand Court dress than of
course must be my case made up they
do not wear the Court train attached separately
here nor the veil at Court, that dress I
have just time to consider as not a
Court affair occurs before the last of Dec.
For the present, I cannot wear my full
dresses when calling on officials, or in the
evening, as we are ordered into mourning
for the Queen of Bavaria - The look for

at least a month longer, after which I shall
be in a quiet country place, when Mrs Sartin
tells me, she never took a good dress out of
her trunks - though I'm quantities of things, I've
not need them - My black net (the high silk
underneath) must in daytime, low at night) has been
doing duty in the official calls, with black net
formal, & ^{black} gloves - When I next go to dinner or a
home I can wear anything I choose -
Will you send this to Mr. and Aunt Laura, as
I am sick of myself & will them now for a long

Time - I suppose they will
like to know what I am doing.
It must all wait finally about
Burr^{and} for the present as every
thing is uncertain in that
quarter. The Rossetts have
been extremely pleasant and
agreeable and I think they
are wild to stay for a while
but don't know what they and
the State Dept. will do about
it; as Rossett very frankly
asked, in a designation long

ago - Of course they must
be careful and show great

Willingness to keep them - It may go on un-
certain this way for a month or so yet - They
want it to appear in H. Y. of course that they
have kept even in making designs, and not
sent off immediately. In fact they know as little
as we do. - I'll be not to speak of it - at
all - As often and let us know when
you are and when you will be coming
to Vienna as promised. I don't like Italy
for the children at this season. Mrs W. Ida H. G.