

6-5-1891

## Ida H. Grant to Ma, June 5, [1891]

Ida Honoré Grant

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1891

Merica June 5<sup>th</sup>

Dear Ma.

I have written to Pa begging  
him to simply make you  
come abroad with him, as  
I think you ought to take  
enough interest in the  
part of your family over  
here to come to see them  
and then if you must  
in order to look after your  
property, go back with sis.  
I know in begging



You to come, that it will do  
you no harm, the sea voyage  
will be good for you, as well  
as, the change of climate  
and scene. Everyone  
overs it to herself to take  
a change, occasionally.  
And we all want to see you  
so much, to say much.  
You must want to see my  
big children who are  
sitting up in life, and

You must take some interest in our  
Foreign home - This time last spring  
when I stood before the mirror with Julia,  
I remember remarking that she was almost  
as tall as I was and now she is several  
inches taller - The fever with the measles  
seemed to make them both the children  
grow tremendously - We have been so  
anxious about Harry all the time,  
the more so because I never heard  
anything, but now I have had such a  
nice long letter from Kate and am going  
to see his very room, as she has finally con-  
sented to come to Vienna through late!  
Must prattle no more - We could  
not go to London or Paris to meet him as we  
had already done so much in making  
our Italian trip, and later in accepting  
the invitation of Mr and Mrs Reed to visit  
them in Paris. We had just gotten well

settled down in our home  
and the children started  
in with their studies, having  
used all our vacation and  
holiday as well as our  
travelling means. We can  
not do so much, and is  
more, which I am sure  
is well understood as  
the season of my not being  
to meet her in London.  
I am hearing her praises  
every where, especially  
by the Chicago Americans,  
who are now travelling

every where abroad and the  
best and truest ones, are  
those who have most to say  
about her - how wonderful  
she is and what talent she  
is developing in her work.  
I may especially cite as her  
admirers the German  
Publicists, who were here  
ten days ago, and the Germans  
(English and French) who dined  
with us last evening - the  
English also mentioned her  
with respectful admiration.

And Mr. Johnson spoke of how two Mrs. had  
always admired you - I have come to the  
conclusion that it is very fine to have such  
relations, and am feeling very contented  
about it all around, especially, since I  
have received the papers sent by Bud  
and read Katie's letter about all she did  
in Springfield. She evidently has now  
found her calling, and will use other  
known as a fine writer or speaker, and  
having all this talent I am glad she  
has money, so that it will be comfortable  
necessary to all things, and the mind is  
clearer when relieved from harassing  
care as to where she where withal will come  
from - Speaking of means, I am enjoy-  
ing immensely all I have, but regret that  
I cannot pay by a <sup>small</sup> <sup>little</sup> <sup>more</sup> <sup>time</sup> <sup>to</sup> -  
In a rainy day - I find these positions so  
filled by Americans and no sinners since

The Salary is <sup>the</sup> just wages  
enough to fill the diploma-  
tic place and perform ones  
duties thoroughly & ones  
pellow country men - And  
And I have had, on an  
average, two dinners a  
week since our return  
from Italy and the latter  
our old acquaintance from  
Washington (but just so)  
staying in our house through  
a generous impulse of their  
Mr. DeCoursey, as they  
were Thayer's relations

had to keep up appearance,  
while they were with us,  
so altogether we have not  
been saving out of our nice  
large salary; and I mention  
this because I think every  
one expects me to do so and  
my conscience hurls me all  
that time that we should go  
on spending so much when  
I supposed we would begin  
put some thing aside. I  
know you as that said



Could do it but I consider myself a  
great failure as a manager of money.  
After the two perhaps it is as well to enjoy  
life as one goes on, and we certainly have  
a very nice time. At this moment Sunday  
Afternoon, Julia and Mary are in the  
dining room having afternoon tea on  
account of Miss Letty Julia's <sup>1876-75-1879</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
And she has with her three French  
girls daughters of the Diplomatic Military  
Attache's house. There are also the two little  
Spanish boys sons of the Spanish Military  
Attache. They all speak equally well  
French or German and my children have  
good opportunity to forget their English  
entirely. But later will probably forget  
the foreign languages. I tried all that  
Cabbins and telegraphing would do, to get  
him on a family here. During May, do



15<sup>th</sup>  
The People here still in  
town the Derby occurred  
and the "Rat" was say - As  
it is they will come in mid-  
summer and find Vienna  
as New York is at that season  
They will see the city and we  
will enjoy them but nothing  
more he going on. Sister  
Notion me that she is going  
to be in Paris during  
June that she will come the  
1<sup>st</sup> of July in preference if we

are both ~~happy~~ <sup>of having her left home</sup> than Mr. J.  
Cruise far up our plans,  
and are glad to have her  
whenever we can get her.  
Now I hope for much  
coming out soon. The  
Reids were very cordial  
and polite to us and we  
were quite thrilled with all  
their magnificence. He  
privately told them that they  
spent at least <sup>high</sup> times his  
salary. They certainly entertain  
magnificently. I don't see

had our countrymen put up with us,  
after all that, in Paris. They gave several  
large suppers & dinners while we were  
there, and we were presented to the  
President and Madame Carnot, the latter  
showing us her box for the Opera but  
all their stanzas etc. seemed very tame  
and Republican after being among  
the Austrians who are so high and  
mighty in their state - There is not  
quite now in Paris with the diplomats  
so little or nothing of the old Frenchman  
class. It is not so interesting. I like better  
going to a real High Court unless one is  
to be in Washington it once. He says  
Italy King and Queen had private audiences  
with the King and Queen who were  
most agreeable, though, also, much  
more Democratic than the Austrians

17<sup>m</sup>

There is so much elegance  
here that other countries  
seem like "Raphael's boys"  
all of them.

I hope that in four years  
Chas. on West Ave. for  
will meet with success. It  
seems to me that in designing  
the corner lot next to you  
you have done the only &  
wisest thing to be done as  
the corners are always so  
disagreeable. Sincerely yours

Those fine Struts I hope  
Aunt Laura and Uncle  
Ben, and also, the boys  
will all make something  
out of the rise of prices  
which will be caused  
by ~~such~~ <sup>such</sup> ~~times~~ <sup>times</sup> of the  
Exposition. Some one  
will make a tremendous  
amount there in Chicag.

I trust that ere this  
aches for Fanny <sup>will</sup> have  
recovered, entirely forgetting

all the illness, it is so dreadful to  
have any illness. I can scarcely  
wait to see Sir, Mr. Marsh has patience  
until he can come - Julia is  
not only 15 but - I am 37 years old -  
I am the same age! I know that, when I  
see that I am growing & rap. I go to  
see at home. Affectionately  
Thanks to Hall's letter Ida & Grand-

7/25 u



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