

11-15-1891

Ida H. Grant to Sis, November 15, [1891]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Vienna Nov. 14th 1891

Dear Sir.

I wrote you before, how
grateful we were for the nice
box, but cannot help telling
you again how very much
we enjoyed every thing it
contained. Myra is now
wearing a lovely suit to which
every day out of it and the
other evening when Mrs. Marie
Sunderly Kelly and her sister
dined here, she wore the same

cost much to his own satisfaction and mine, as he bought all in it and it is so very stylish - The clothes are all of course, much finer in quality and living than anything I ever buy for him, but so much more stylish than anything one could buy over here -

The magnificent, beautiful ~~gold & pink~~ damask & bar decided hues -
& over the large doors which pass from the little boudoir

to the parlor as they are the largest white
Spot which has never been covered, and
the coloring comes in exactly right there,
though the stuff is really so much finer
than anything in my house, that it seems
a shame for me to have it. It will not
be wasted however as everyone who comes
here looks hard at my things with a
critical eye, especially the Americans,
^{more all than if I were at home in private life}
and so many do come. I am just
now quite excited and pleased over the pro-
spect of a 'court-concert' to which the Sips-
mato are bidden, and where we shall see
all the 'Court' in full costume. They have
not had one before, since we have been
here - All the Court have returned for their
wedding festivities, which the Emperor is doing
to his young relatives, the daughters of the Grand

Duke of Leiningen, as he
is marrying the future King
of Saxony. There was some
doubt as to whether or not
His diplomats would be invi-
ted, but now that is settled.

We are not asked to the
Carpel in the "Burg" which is
very small where the ceremony
will be performed but places
are arranged for the wife & look
on from the gallery - That
the ceremony
and the dinner, will be
conducted to the family &

Some highest-Court Officials
Of course there is an under-
current of discontent, among
Some diplomats who think it
outrageous they are not asked
but it seemed to me, impos-
sible for the Emperor to do so much
and have so many, when the
marriage is only that of a
distant niece, not any one
of his immediately near
family circle - The Sips
I think are much like our
Army Officers going from
one post to another killing

how much better the fact was, in every way.

I shall immensely enjoy, the Concert which
will be limited to the "Smallest" of the High
~~Aristocrats~~ and will be a grand sight to me. I hate
always, the full crowd of rooming below
the shoulders, must shake up my mind this.

After this the Court who have returned for their files,
is back to their Castles, for the time between
this and Ymas. In fact all the Diplomats are
not in town yet-- 'I hear that Princess
Skattenich is here now, and will have my
cards for her soon. 'Now what are you going
to do about her and your board? Have not
you time to think of that yet?

I intended to begin this letter by announcing
to you that this Government - The Austrian
Part of it, had accepted the Sanitation of the
Columbian Fair three weeks ago, (the Russian
declining to do so, though "willing to do what was

right, in aiding their manu-
facturers in sending goods
there, the Government must
decline to take part officially,
all these facts Col. Grant having
telegraphed immediately to Wash-
ton and having received, soon,
a despatch in reply signed by
Mr. Blaine personally expressing
the gratification of our Gov.
in receiving the news of
Australia's acceptance, &c.
Why this has not been an-
nounced, in our papers, I do
not know, simply for the reason

that we are not so clever
about making these things
public as Phelps or Reid.

I may as well tell you privately
that Fred has been working
hard and having negotiations
with this Gov. for two months
past, on the subject of our
"Park prospects" as this country
with its dual government
has been much more diffi-
cult to work on, than any other
for more reasons than one.
Fred has been doing things

More even than Mr. Reid those actions
in the matter day by day, are reported in a
interesting and I think highly proper way,
in the Newspapers at home. At last, this
week, Fred is triumphant to have gained from
the Minister of F.R. a statement in writing,
that both Hungary and Austria has decided
in their Cabinets, to repeal the Prohibition
against admission of American Park products
etc - and that he will announce this to
his government; but they, at the same time hope
that he would request the U.S. Government to keep
the matter secret until, they had decided exactly
upon the wording of their Proclamation of the
repeal, as the Hungarians and Austrians have
to agree on the language etc., being different -
it would take them some little time to make
out their "Proclamation" of the rescinding
of prohibition against American Park products -
to exactly suit the cabinets of both countries of

13th
This Empire — all of which
had telegraphed in Cyphers,
with delight, to Washington, but
at the same time expressing
this Government's request for
secrecy in the matter that is
that it should not be made
public or published, until
they got the formalization
made out, to send themselves,
that is both Germany and
Austria — Fred felt this to
be quite a triumph and put
in his official copy, though the

But he knows nothing of it,
all, is an record at Washington
and he has very Complimentary
Congratulatory Despatches from
the "Department". I am sorry
that he is not so situated
that all his actions are not
known very thoroughly from
day to day, as is the case with
Phelps & Reid who have their
own correspondents, putting
every detail out for them, as
it may seem best for the fut-
ure but Fred tells me it is
always best in the end to be

quicker and that some people understand
the "advertising" - I really admire both those
other men, think them very talented and
clever and believe their being all their actions
before the public, as public officers, does
them good - We have not been surprised
and pleased to have a most complimentary
letter and invitation from Mr Phelps, who
wishes to visit him, but we have de-
clined - We do not quite understand
his starting up in this extraordinary way, as
we really do not know him well and it
should he really want to have a visit from us
as the kids did, who surprised us very much
by visiting ^{an invitation also,} without any particular reason or
cause for so doing - I happen to know of three
or four other U.S. Ministers having dined in
Paris for weeks, and Fred is the only one so far,
who has been invited by the kids - Our Minister
from Greece who was not here, with us, was actually

Angry with Mr Phelps for
having shown him so little
attention and he had not
stand with the Reids in Paris
either; so it is rather a Compli-
ment for them to have sent
us out ^{They were invited for a long time.} For several seasons
however, we found it impossi-
ble to go to Berlin just now.

I especially, did not wish to
miss these wedding festivities.

We have had here for some
time, a Mr Dues the head of the
"Art Dept" of the World's Fair, whom

We found really a great-
deal more interesting
and intelligent than the
"Commissioners" who were
here last year's business. —

I suppose he found Austin
rather slow and old-fashioned
after Berlin and Paris,
but General Watford with
his success all over Europe.

I am glad to read of your
living in ~~Texas~~ ^{of} as the trip
there was probably a rest-
to you — I think of you as

So busy now that I ought not even to trouble
you with these long uninteresting letters.

You don't know how much I miss
your letters, which used to be so full and
keeping me informed, as they do ^{all} fall at
home. I am lonely without them.

You must try to send me a line some-
times; now especially, I want you to try
to decide on your plans and when
exactly you think you will be coming
to Vienna. We are so anxious to have you
again, and make out that little short-
hired visit of last summer. So write
me when you are planning to come. You
need not even consider our traveling, as
all four of us we shall probably stay here
until July and keep the children as quietly
at school as possible that is in case of their

not treating me to some
illness like the measles,
again. Fred and I find
as long as we are settled it is
better to remain so, as travelling
is a very expensive business
for us four. It is so nice to
have a home to us.

I am pleased that we have
just received notice that the
"King and Queen of Saxony"
who are coming to the Prince
Wedding, will receive us at
the Palace on Tuesday

2 o'clock - It will be rather a blow to the
rest of the Legation, as they are not mentioned
only the "Chefs des Missions et Mesdames, Lemoine
Epoux". Of course poor Mrs Cheval will be more
grieved than ever. She has come back with
the intention of going out this year apparently as
she has taken an opera-box for the season. I am
sorry she has announced that she will go to
the Court - Friday evening, in almost high dress

dress as she cannot bear
 "looked upon" for some reason,
 and it is absolutely defying
all etiquette of the Court, and
 will be much remarked, being
 dressed inde, as the "dix" modern
 Italians about etiquette of the Court
 which receives them, in England
 people are asked to retire, when
 they do not conform to the Court
 dress - She says she will do it -
 unless she knows there will be
 some one to prevent her entering

If you even ask her if one
 looked at in London, the

My dear Mother
I have lost my mind and I'm certainly so
I don't know as I shall live and he
reminds me I have been especially careful not
to touch the subject - in any way and I'm
glad of course in the round and dice -
he is very spoiled and full of
they think over here that our ladies are so
I try to make up in truth and honesty observing
all customs I don't know how it will end this
time - Mrs. Kim & Mrs. Sargent all up do all right