

12-19-1891

## Ida Honoré Grant to Ma, December 19, 1891

Ida Honoré Grant

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Vienna Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 1891.

dear Ma

I am really speechless at re-  
ceiving such a fine present  
from you, The God flowers,  
which reached me yesterday.  
It was so very kind of you  
to send it - but I really feel  
very badly to think that I  
am having so much of  
what should go to make you

Comfortable and I am  
quite distressed to have you  
leave journey to give us  
pleasure. I feel sure  
you could have made  
just use of this money es-  
pecially as you are doing  
so much building now  
and then you have all the  
expense of fixing your  
living room over after  
that dreadful fire which

I was so sorry to hear of - Of course  
like all children who are more selfish  
than parents I enjoy immensely the  
money but I do hope that you will  
consider me more than worthy and  
not please do not again send me  
anything here - I was going to write  
and ask you not to send me anything  
for Christmas but thought it would only



Remind you of it and perhaps, I had  
better just keep quiet. Now do remember  
that I am not in need, and that you  
have much else that is more impor-  
tant to do with your money than  
giving me presents, though George &  
I must confess that I and all of us  
are, most grateful. - I wish he dis-  
sented to think that when I asked for

8th

What I must choose as you  
just then he replied that I  
had better keep all the money  
for myself but that if I did  
buy him anything he hoped  
it would be a new pipe "just  
imagine that he can never get  
enough pipes & fair examples  
of human nature which are  
also my own actions since  
the very same day that I re-  
ceived your first letter im-  
mediately to Prescott and  
ordered a copy being done

and Coat for myself, ordering  
it to be entirely finished in  
three days; for as Aunt Louisa  
used to say, I never want any  
thing or else want all in a  
great hurry. As soon as I felt  
extravagant enough to order  
the new dress, I decided I must  
have it for Tuesday next, when  
The Comtesse de Castiglione (Chieftain  
in waiting to the Empress) will  
receive, as will also, Prince  
Renoir, and I decided I must  
have my new dress then or  
not at all; so they are working

hard that it may be finished - It is a lovely  
Turk Plum-color mixed with lighter shades  
same cloth embroidered in darker shade -  
the jacket - trimmed very richly, with plush the  
skirt from belt down embroidered and the in-  
side waist, in the lighter shade of silk also em-  
broidered - The whole jacket and all, silk lined,  
to cost just 250 florins \$100, which would be very  
cheap at home - The two Arch Dukes (Yorck  
brothers) who have died and the Emperor of Russia  
also have caused us to wear Court-Mourning  
until 26<sup>th</sup> of January, half mourning, white and  
black for the last three weeks, so I must go  
very slowly about choosing an evening dress.

We can't tell just yet what the Emperor and  
Empress will do about joining the Court dinner  
and two balls but will know immediately this  
New Year - They might even order mourning  
last aside for the one wearing of Court train  
in which case I would wear my lace over

9<sup>th</sup>  
Green which I had made and  
could not wear to the ball  
because of our measles last  
year - So pass it. If the  
Empress should write me  
words of ministers to draw the  
May order half high dress  
of white in which case I  
would have to get something  
new, as my white brocade, then  
also pass, I trimmed with  
the pearl trimming of her gown  
it made aloud look needed.  
As all this Court etiquette has

The Day Thoroughly Observed  
By the Diplomatic Society  
Very slowly about choosing my  
Dresses - Everyone united  
in saying that my yellow  
Brocade with the waist  
imprudent in Brown was  
the most elegant and beautiful  
last winter indeed I know my-  
self that no one surpassed  
of anyone else had as beautiful  
the material is truly magnificent  
but - There is some that  
Ladies must vary and the

I cant just be sensible and wear it  
again this winter to the Court dinner as men  
can wear their same suits - I am going to  
buy for Julia something that will be useful  
to her as a grown up young lady, from Grand-  
Mama - I have not yet decided whether a  
handsome fan or what. She is most anxious  
to get one of these elegant travelling sets  
they make here with her initials on it but  
I dont think that as pretty as something  
else - I am very glad you like her letters but  
you must not think of her as a grown up  
person, as you know she is now just a little  
over 15 years old. I think Bud and his  
Sister both think her French very good, as she  
has always spoken the language and has now  
gotten all the little turns and idioms quite  
perfectly the same times Sister Catherine has  
too. But as you only too well know I do  
not set her a very good example in that.

13th

She writes German quite as  
well now as either French or  
English and is doing very  
well indeed in her drawing  
as I keep her very strictly of  
all her studies I am sure  
But then both as I feel we  
must soon break up here  
and then they will have it  
totally no advantages and  
both especially Meyer will  
forget almost all I fear.  
Still I kept my French better  
than I supposed possible and



do not really know what I  
should have done without  
it here, it was also the greatest  
possible advantage to the  
children to have learned to  
speak French before they came  
over, as absolutely all their  
associates speak only French  
or German. You may well  
imagine why I would be  
pleased for you to have an  
other term as I have I would  
be ready and glad to go  
home with I would feel  
that the children were far

advanced. I am especially pleased this  
year with Julia's being invited by Madame  
Lygöczy's <sup>Five Children's</sup> dancing class (The wife of the great  
Hungarian Minister who represents the Emperor  
in the Government of that country) where  
she meets a very choice set of young girls prop-  
her own age, about 10 or 12 of them and  
has not only the pleasure of dancing but of  
associating with the highest. They have ~~and~~  
says as it is considered best for young girls  
of that age to dance with one another, but last  
week when the Lygöczy's expected their  
little cousin to play with them, Count Schöy,  
they visited Lygöczy, which was quite a Compli-  
ment I thought (as plenty of the other girls have  
brothers) and our children were both very happy  
indeed, the whole thing adjourned at 8½<sup>2</sup> with  
they have a little Cake - Marmalade & Milk -

1<sup>st</sup> Ma

then talk and play a little  
to cool off at the end of  
course, all conversation is in  
French or German and the  
children are much pleased  
to get on so well. Eliza  
remarked very practically at  
luncheon yesterday "it is very  
convenient to know these  
languages as it would be  
hard to get on without them"  
I am much pleased about  
Julia's dancing class as it  
is entirely a compliment.

She is the only girl of the Aphi-  
satic Corps invited and  
when Anne. Bycognyd asked her  
once in calling that winter  
she said she had such bad  
manners that she was going  
to write her to join her Aphi-  
satic dancing this year.

The Minsterium is very  
grand. The immense  
and tall - room is particu-  
larly <sup>in arrangement</sup> good for the dancing.  
Julia has two pretty evening  
dresses, one a pale green

Just made up with narrow white satin  
busts (is just her the material this year)  
the other a pretty pink with these little flake  
Hoto or tails like crinoline has over it and the  
waist trimmed with 'black velvet' they  
are both very becoming. Her new smile  
coat is also quite handsome, trimmed with the  
handsome 'black astrakhan' with which also she  
wears a very pretty black velvet-hat. I have  
paid considerable attention to Julia's things this  
year, and of course pretty clothing is always  
becoming to everyone. I forwarded a few  
little trifles through the London Legation Mailbox  
& Mr. Pinnington who will send them by express  
to Chicago. They are really nothing as you may  
know going in that way. Every thing was opened  
and gone over by the Custom Officials last year  
before Mr. Pinnington could present. And I was not  
satisfied as I always felt his 'fun' must have been  
broken. The little card caught you and the new silver  
cuttings at the corner, but I am sure you will think

it simple enough to don't  
propose to do anything but  
use it don't care if Mr Julia  
she has more than enough  
of everything - I feel very un-  
happy in the belief that you  
have plenty of use for all  
this money you have sent me  
It is really too bad - when  
will you believe that I have  
enough more than I want  
of everything and not give  
me what you should spend  
on yourself - Christmas  
Evelyns & all at home I don't  
know when my little conceivable will

reach you I hope by Wednesday  
day. Certainly they ought to.  
I am ~~in~~ in love  
for all at home and many  
many thanks to you for  
our Christmas gift, which  
is much too fine

Yours affectionately  
Eda Henri Grant