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Ida H. Grant to Ma, January 29, 1892

Ida Honoré Grant

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Vienna 27th Jan. 1872

Dear Ma, I must have ~~written~~
very strongly to have produced
such an effect, but whether
I was right or wrong in all
I said, I can but be pleased
having in reply, received
such a nice letter from you
about which, I feel like
talking much, as your letters
are so very rare - I can
say you think that all

Which "Concerns" you must
be so dull and uninterest-
ing" which remarks, I might
take as a disproof, since
I well realize, that my own
letters must seem most
conceited and egotistical
since they are full of our
joys and sorrows here,
and the details of our life
in Vienna. Looking at it
from one point of view I
may feel myself to be one-

Rain but I am urged on to write by the
feeling, that you do really want to hear all
about Fred and me and our children so
I continue to impose upon you, my deeply
un-egotistical relatives - As you have
probably read most exaggerated accounts in
the American newspapers about the "Influenza"
here, I need not tell you, that only there
have been many deaths in Vienna from
that disease, but it is not such an epidemic
as in England, France and Italy and
those who have died were generally persons
who had already some chronic disease before
they took the "Influenza", for instance, the
two old Arch-Dukes - brothers of Arch Duke
Rainer, had some least month, and

5th were very imprudent when
" they took their colds, and
the next Arch Duke, Salva-
dor (the brother of the Grand
Duke of Saxe-Coburg) has been
always a sufferer from the
Gout, which made him
very delicate in many ways.

His death put the Royal
family into deeper mourning,
than the death of the others,
as he was more nearly rela-

led to the Emperor, and
his wife the Arch Duchess
Immaculata was the sister
of the wife of Carl Ludwig,
the Emperor's brother, so that
the Arch Duke Carl Ludwig's
children had their own
Aunt's husband and his wife
all this relationship, the
Arch Duke Salvator, who
died last, was the father in
law of the Emperor's youngest

daughter the Arch Duchess Valerie. Who has
(since this last death) given birth to a
new Arch Duchess and her husband has
not yet heard of his little daughter's birth, as
he was ill at the time with "Influenza", caught
at the funeral of his father a few days off,
So you see births, as well as deaths, are unex-
pectedly occurring at the Austrian Court.
I say unexpectedly as the little new Arch-
Duchess arrived a month before the time
arranged for her reception - Now the
poor Empress is called upon to mourn the
death of her own Mother, who had been
ailing a long time but was at last carried
off by the "Influenza" at the age of almost
80. The Mother of the Empress was also
the Aunt of the Emperor, so that the mourn-
ing is now on both sides the house, and we

9th
"Have received our cards no-
tifying us, that there will be
"Court Mourning" for 8
Weeks deep Black men to the
Jewelry and fans for 5 weeks,
(which takes us through till Lent),
and Black and white or
Half Mourning for three
(3) weeks. So you may
well imagine this has cast
quite a shadow over the
high society, though the
Emperor has had an offi-

Cial announcement made,
that those who thought of
giving entertainments
must go right on with their
plans, as "Society" has now
been in mourning since
before Christmas and the
soirées and balls have
been postponed until now,
with the hope that the moun-
ting would be finished.

It amuses me extremely
to watch the actions of those
who are supposed to be in

"Court Morning," for instance, for the other
pieces of diplomats, is out in the morning or
day time, in bright colors if we choose though
for evening wear we must put on the deep
black and at the "Court ball" morning
was dispensed with for that evening, and
always during these periods of "Court Morning"
the young girls or others who dance, put
on colors while their Maumas wear the
black strictly - the young girls wearing colors
only to the dances - never to other soirees

Last evening we went to a Musical Soiree
and every lady in the room young and old
had on deep black - You may imagine
the effect - Now that the Morning is
really of a personal nature with the Emperor
and Empress (notwithstanding permission given

(3rd out) Very few who were
planning entertainments
wish to have them as not an
Arch Duke or Arch Duchess
would be present, and thus
a large ball without one of the
Royal family, is not a very
desire of those who wish to
make the affair a brilliant
great success and it would also
be discouraging to have any
Lady appear in deep black so
any balls given will be rushed in

the last week before Lent when
the morning can be lightened
with a few pearls or diamonds
and when it will not seem so
disrespectful to the family
feelings of the hostess. All
this is not the same to me as
I quite enjoy staying at home
and in fact what I like best
about Vienna is, that instead
of having a perfect riot and
being over-kegged simply "gay".
We go to one large very interest-
ing entertainment and after

that are free to retire early for many nights
without the fatigue of going at all until some
other nice grand affair occurs - These laws
of etiquette and mourning only concern the
Ambassadors or High Officials who have
the large palaces and give the entertainments
as to ourselves we are willing to stay at home
sometimes and then go when the occasion
makes it worth while. I have been repining
very much that with all this "Influence" in
Europe it has not seemed to have amounted
to anything at home at all, and that you are
all keeping it in Chicago, as I was very much
opposed to having you and Harry take it
again - The disagreeable feature being that
those who have once suffered are not
exempt from taking the disease another
time - I must conclude this both of our

17th Children have been ill
With it, Julia having what
seemed a bad cold with
fever and a slight cough for
a week after, then Myroes took it
on his hands - a form of the
disease which is prevalent here
now among children - But
they fortunately had no serious
results -

It was really too bad about the
house getting on fire and
the Museum. I having it
made over again, right in

The midst of winter, but
seem to be able to take
things most easily always.
It is very good for you to
propose for us to be taken
in there, when we go home
and indeed, we are very
grateful for the offers for our
Aunt Laura make no doubt.
We have become so charmed
with this foreign custom
of living in the country most
of the year that I suspect
I always think we will try

that at home and make - fashion suits
ourselves to only be in the city - Two or three
Months every Year - You know we wanted
always to try that, though you who grew up in
the Country, never could believe, that I could
like it whereas having been in large cities
all my life, I have always wished to make
our real home in the Country, only going to
town for a while - I am glad to see that
both our Children have our same taste, in
this and like ourselves having travelled around
here in Europe - and seen the lovely quiet-
Country homes where the higher and richer the
people are, the longer they stay out of town their
tastes have been more cultivated in that
direction. Of course in America, the Gentlemen
& consequence usually, must stay in town
because of their interests, and making lots

2nd of money but - Fred will have
no such inducements
as it would be too late for him
now to attempt to learn any
business - I am charmed
with the way these people do.
The most ones here didn't
come in town until ^{after} Christmas,
and are always running back
"home" as they call it - from
town, thinking they are doing
wonders to remain in until
May - Their great palaces are
in the city, simply stopping

places all their treasures
and pleasures are in the
country homes and the life
of that kind seems to please
the most rational of people
generally, unless as I say, they
have important work in
town - You know I always
wanted to buy a place in
Morristown, not in New York
city, though I believe you did
not approve - From that
point on, we shall be arrang-
ing I suppose to have here -

In the mean time, we are doing all we
possibly can for the children, who are really
improving nicely I think, and living as we do
on our salary pretty thoroughly - My mag-
nificent "Sartre du bal" and new dresses are
immensely complimented. I wish you could
see them yourself - I am expecting to hear
every day from his, whether or not she likes
the dress I selected for her and how she
likes it. I don't think you will ~~over~~ over
my little "souvenirs" sent by mail at Ymas this
year, over which I feel rather mortified, es-
pecially, when my magnificent photo from
you and his reached me - I am now ex-
pecting his over here, very soon, as she pro-
poses to come after him. But she is so busy
that I hear from her seldom now. Our
letters are always written in haste, but I hope