

6-8-1892

## Ida Honoré Grant to Ma, June 8, [1892]

Ida Honoré Grant

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Anda Perth  
June 8<sup>th</sup> -

dear Ma - The great ball

which we attended after  
the "Gala Theatre" last night  
ago, was most grand and  
beautiful, it was given as  
I wrote you, in honor of the  
Diplomatic Corps - by the  
Court and Countess de Lichowicz  
who live very beautifully

in a great old palace -  
The hostess was crowned  
with diamonds and the  
host in a very brilliant cos-  
tume - The great staircase  
and hall were in pure  
white marble and on  
each great column, was  
stretched around a piece  
of dark red cloth upon  
which, from the floor &  
the ceiling, were painted

beautiful White lillies - Examined  
closely and was quite overwhelmed to  
think of the work it must have been  
as each lillie was pinned on in this  
careful way separately - Great baskets  
and ornaments of roses were placed  
about the rooms and most remarkable  
of all, was the arrangement of flowers  
on every window of the two great



Salon, which was something I had  
never seen anywhere, before. - Each  
Window had all over the floor a  
gilded trellis-work and all over  
this, were fastened great trailing  
branches of flowers, principally Pink  
roses, from the top of the window to  
the bottom, which with the lace curtains

5<sup>th</sup>  
Cran back outside  
of all, made a most  
beautiful effect and was  
most refined as an orna-  
mentation to the white  
and gold balcons. The  
dining-room also, had  
wonderful pyramids of  
flowers, behind which  
or within which, were great  
pieces of ice that looked  
like ornaments in crystal  
and cooled the atmosphere

of the rooms immensely.

There also was an invention  
which I had never even  
seen in our own Country  
and the prices everywhere  
were truly wonderful -

We were told that this  
Countess Beckhonia made  
a great specialty and hobby  
of arranging flowers so  
beautifully, in her home.

I must try to write  
you an account of these

Curious ornaments and devices in  
flowers as it would be convenient  
to introduce some such arrange-  
ments into her own beautiful palace.

We are quite charmed with the  
Kangas, who are very elegant and hospitable  
and who, it seems, cannot do enough  
for our foreign representatives; the Countess  
Szapary wife of the Minister President

and Mme. Szöényi (Wife of Minister from  
Hungary to Vienna) made it - Their particular  
duty to introduce our ladies of diplomatic  
Corps - and everyone joined in, to make  
our welcome a warm one - In fact -  
we think it quite charming to be  
of the Hungarian Government and Ambassadors -  
At the "Gala Theatre" where  
the Emperor, Arch-Duke, and his Court were

9<sup>th</sup> assembled the gentlemen  
all wore their grand, family  
Coatmors, which we saw  
in the morning, in honor  
of the Emperor's presence.  
But <sup>later</sup> for the private ball of  
Countess Beckowicz, the gentle-  
men were met in dress-  
suits, with their orders &c  
as the Emperor was not  
present; but the affair  
was made brilliant by  
the presence of the Arch-

Duke Carl Ludwig, his wife  
The Arch Duchess Marie Theresia,  
The Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand  
Steph, Heir to the Throne, the  
Princes and Princess Philip  
of Coburg and other high  
ones —

This Morning Fred has  
gone to the Great Church  
services in Memory of  
the Emperors Coronation as  
well as that of the Empress

The head of the Church in Hungary  
will speak at length, and the Primate  
and many Arch-Bishops will be present  
with the Emperor - Arch dukes: Arch duc-  
esses and all the Court - as well as the  
diplomats and highest aristocrats of  
Hungary. I was really too tired to rise  
in time for these services, though I am  
sure that I shall regret my laziness



Last evening we dined at the "Minister-  
ium" a great Palace on a high hill  
near to the Emperor's Castle, our host  
& hostess being Count & Countess Gyssy  
the Minister President (the head of the Hungarian  
Government) both of them charming people.  
He most distinguished and talented  
and she, though very ugly and plain

13<sup>th</sup> Full most graceful and  
agreeable, well-dressed, &  
a very fine conversational-  
ist, as well as most simple  
and charming in manner.  
In fact, this simplicity  
of manner is what really  
masks all the great people  
whom we meet. The  
dinner was not elaborate  
at all, but very perfect in  
every detail, with beautiful  
flowers and wonderful

Fruits immense Peaches  
and delicious Melons all  
raised here in Hungary  
Some thing I assure you  
we have not seen before  
for a long time, as it is  
next to impossible to obtain  
good fruit & flowers in  
Verina - In fact as Hun-  
gary is such a rich and  
fertile Country, we find  
the people here more like

Americans in being fond of everything  
fine and extravagant. They are especially  
fond of showing the great products of  
their own land. The Master of Minto  
Gipany who is the "Court Chamberlain"  
(both positions have been always high in  
honor) told Col. Grant at this dinner that  
our Country rivalled theirs in all these  
luxurious products and in fact, was

almost their ruin in every way. In fact  
as Count Szapary said, we out-eat them  
and he and all of Hungary will starve  
when we have enough people at home  
in the United States, to consume our own  
products. The reason of all this is, that  
agriculturally & in every way, I fear Hun-  
gary will send very little to exhibit at  
our "Worlds Fair" next year. In fact the

17<sup>th</sup>  
The Americans declined  
to accept the invitation  
from Government, to our  
Exposition —

At this great dinner I  
sat at the left of our  
host, joining in with the  
French Ambassador, while  
Princias Rous sat at his  
right — The Doctor in law,  
Centes Szopary who has  
evidently been a great leader

in her day and is now  
most attractive and Mme.  
Szöcsényi. Sat of course,  
lower than the diplomatic  
ladies as we were seated,  
though the sister-in-law  
is the wife of the Court-  
Chamberlain. After  
dinner we were shown  
into several large salons  
of the Ministry that  
we had not seen before

one of which, was particularly beautiful  
being finished in a peculiar shade of  
green, with carpet to match, & suit set  
off to wonderful advantage. The panel  
old tapestries, presented by the Empress  
"Marie Therese" to the Ministry  
of Hungary - The Chairs and sofas  
were all of the beautiful tapestries



of the same age presented also, by the  
Emperor, to correspond with the Mar-  
vellous "Gothelins" on the walls.

The great, standing Candelabra <sup>case</sup>  
for which, with many branches stood in  
one of the four corners of this Saloon  
Especially struck my fancy and I could  
not help wondering how he had them for

21<sup>st</sup> Her Salon, as they  
were all gilded and so  
remarkable in shape.

After resting and chatting  
a while with the dinner  
<sup>we saw</sup>  
suite, great doors at  
the extreme end of the  
last Salon opened, into  
still another beautiful  
reception hall, all  
around which was a  
wide balcony, from which

the guests of the evening  
were expected to view  
the whole City of Buda-  
Pesth which lay just  
below, and which was to  
be illuminated by electric  
city, in honor of the Emperor's  
Anniversary - The sight  
from this great balcony  
proved indeed, to be a  
magnificent one, later  
in the evening, when fire-

Works in every form were sent up  
until midnight, from the brilliantly  
lighted streets below. In our invitation  
just received, through the Foreign Office  
here, it was stated, that we would find  
this balcony the best, choice spot from  
which to view the illumination and  
we were invited to the soirée which fol-  
lowed, a grand affair, to which His

Majesty and all the Rozathies came  
and made the high Aristocrats of  
Hungary, all of whom had assembled  
by ten o'clock, very happy by speaking  
with them most agreeably and the  
first time for a year. - As the guests  
began to assemble, I was almost dazed  
with the costumes and jewels - Dishe-  
vels soon arrived followed by the

25<sup>th</sup>  
Proteas, and then the  
Archdukes Albert-Carl  
Ludwig, Frederick and  
Mary Ferdinand, The Arch-  
duchess, Marie Theres  
and Clothilde with the  
Prince and Princess of Co-  
burg (the former the brother of  
the Arch-duchess Clothilde)  
all entered in great state  
followed by the King's  
Court Officials who had

Came with him from  
Verina, and entered one  
of the largest rooms  
when they rested having  
conducted to them by the  
Minister President and  
Countess Szapary, all of their  
meals, in great state and  
elegance, to whom it was  
possible for the Hostesses  
to speak during an hour  
or more, all of which time  
of course, the Company

Stood - The Minister President searched  
out the three diplomatic ladies present  
and told them that when the Emperor  
retired (~~he~~ never eats apparently) we would  
be expected to pass tea at the highest  
table, that of the Arch-Duchess which was  
to be in a parlor quite away from the  
other three great supper rooms which  
were thrown open for all the guests



Countess Szapary came also soon to  
tell me the same thing, but I felt almost  
selfish as a foreigner, to come in between  
these Highnesses and their adoring  
Subjects, who could never have recov-  
ered from the honor of dining with Royal  
ty, as we are doing every evening, by  
reason of official precedence - I did  
not push forward at all, but when the

295  
moment came for ques-  
tion, The Trip being  
revised, The Countess then  
set "dame d'honneur" of  
The Archduchess Marie Theres  
came forward to say some  
that she had been asked to con-  
duct to the table of Her High-  
ness etc - The Royal ladies  
the ladies of diplomatic <sup>corps</sup> of  
which there were only two  
that evening, the wife of  
the Minister President, and

five or six ladies of the  
highest birth, were conducted  
into a beautiful parlour where  
a table, laden with finest  
silver, choicest fruits, and  
flowers, had been arranged,  
especially for the Arch-duchess.

The host came in afterwards  
arranged as at table  
and then retired, to return  
again, later with the Arch-  
duke Carl Ludwig, the  
highest gentleman of the

evening after the King, who took a  
vacant seat at our table <sup>being</sup> the only one  
of the gentlemen who joined us. - The  
high teas consist of ~~four~~ five courses.

First - Cold meats & Jellies, and Pattes,  
Salad, ice - cream &  
then Soups, Fruits - and Candies -

The host came in several times to  
speak with the Arch. Duchesses and  
keep serve them, passing them, Fruit <sup>min</sup>

self or serving them in any way possible.  
Notwithstanding the 12 liveried, gold  
embroidered, high-backed attendants  
around the table - There were 16 guests  
at this table - The Archduchess Marie Theres  
(Wife of the King's Brother so now Crown Prince  
of this Monarchy) of course had the Centre  
Seat at one side, & her right was the  
Prince of Coburg, & her left the Arch Duke.

Clothilde, who is at home  
in Hungary, as her husband  
Joseph is V<sup>e</sup> Pallatine  
that Country being a Cousin  
of the Emperor - I was next  
to this Arch-Duchess who con-  
ferred with me most ami-  
ably, though I had not  
yet had the opportunity of  
being presented to her since  
our arrival - She knew  
exactly who I was and asked  
me to speak English with

her as she was cognate  
of that language (she being  
by birth a Coburger, German  
like her English connections)  
talked to me very much  
about their <sup>two daughters</sup> "home" which  
was their chateau in the  
country, and some out  
from Buda Pesth, where she  
said, they spent at least  
8 months of every year in  
perfect seclusion etc. With

her six Children about her who all  
like herself enjoyed so much the  
glories and Country life - In fact it  
is true that her husband, the Arch Duke  
Joseph is the most successful garden-  
er in the world, having raised roses  
to a wonderful perfection and he has  
so improved the "Margarethen" Island  
which he owns, that people come from



all over Europe to see it and the Duke  
has now allowed his house to be  
built upon this beautiful Island and  
some fine buildings for the Sulphur  
baths which he permits the people gener-  
ally to enjoy as he allows them to all  
enter his grounds. He does not love on  
the Island as he has permitted it to  
be so enjoyed by the public, that

37<sup>th</sup>  
He and his family go off  
further in the Country, to  
their Chateau, for seclusion.  
Both the Arch. Duke and  
his wife do very much chari-  
ty with their great wealth  
and make themselves  
much beloved by their  
gracious manners among  
the people of Hungary.  
I asked her why she never  
came to Vienna for Court

festivities when she replied,  
that they were too comfortable  
here, to ever wish to go away.  
It is said she is a most  
devoted mother spending  
much of her time with  
her children "even putting  
them to bed herself" as  
one lady told me, "in  
the bourgeois fashion"  
not at all like an Arch.  
Anchoress — The one

Thing which attracts my notice espe-  
cially abroad is the way in which all  
the best people remain most of the  
year in the Country only coming to the  
City for a few weeks or months. Now  
knowing of a place like Newport or  
Baratza - the Country is rather who  
is very young and whose nobility is so  
enormously rich and who carries

in the Emperor's Procession here so la-  
borate in Orange & Yellow. Told me that  
she had remained in Ho County all  
of last winter as she and her husband  
loved the sleeping and simple home  
pleasures they did not come once  
to either Vienna or Buda Pesth, in each  
of which Cities, they have a magnificent

41  
Palace - Her husband is  
very young, but the eldest  
son, and will be eventually  
the Prince, with great  
wealth and at the head of  
his family - I was very  
much interested in meeting  
the Princess Paley, who  
has been next me at all  
the big lotteries, so far, her  
husband the head of one  
of the greatest families of

This Monarchy is very  
tall, and interesting,  
has more wealth and  
Chateau, than he knows  
what to do with, and she  
is very beautiful, most  
accomplished, speaking  
English as well as all other  
languages - She wears  
the most marvellous jew-  
els. Her Crown last evening  
being finer than that

I enter Arch. duchers - It is quite  
useless for me to attempt to tell you  
about the jewels of the ladies, which  
have been handed down from one  
generation to another in these great  
families, My pen is powerless! -  
The Prince's Palace was Countess Giey  
of one of the other greatest families



in the land. The Princess of Coburg  
whom I am seeing so much of  
these evenings, is the sister of the Crown  
Princess Stephanie (widowed) and she is  
the daughter of the King of Belgium -  
Her mother has just been so kind  
to live in Brussels - Her husband  
Prince Philip has great wealth, and  
some and owns great Palace here

45<sup>th</sup>

They say he is naughty,  
but one could not be-  
lieve it - who sees his  
constant devotion and  
attention to his very land.  
Some wife, ~~whom~~ he  
never leaves.

I think these Negatives  
are much abused. Creatures  
like our own Presidents -  
much better than they have  
the credit of being.  
I feel that I ought to

tear all this up that  
I have written, but will  
let it go, with the feeling  
that perhaps, you may wish  
to know what ~~we~~ are doing  
and seeing, though I fear  
it will bore you too much  
to get through this  
Scrawl. I do hope you  
are all keeping well at  
home and suppose you  
are much interested in  
all the wonders that

47<sup>th</sup> ~~av~~  
We being arranged on  
for great Chicago about  
the of Europe begins to  
leave so much, these  
days. By the time this  
reaches you his will be  
at home again, and  
happens to you that he  
made no no visit at all  
and soon you will know  
that result of our "Conven-  
tion" about which we are  
most anxious - Love to