

9-11-1892

## Ida to Aunt Laura, September 11, 1892

Ida Honoré Grant

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Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> 1894  
Dear Aunt Laura  
I am so amazed and  
overwhelmed at getting  
a few lines from you  
that I haste to express  
thanks for them and the  
Newspaper Cuttings, the  
latter, being interesting,  
though rather confused  
in their statements with  
reference to relationships  
of different people, &c. &c.

American youthful Corres-  
pondents abroad for the  
papers, are rather mixed  
about these terrible atrocities  
that they will write about -  
Last year when a cousin  
or granduncle of the Em-  
peror died or had the ~~the~~  
fluoriza it was always  
announced that they were  
his brothers or father -  
He will be interested  
when we go home and

Read of these Gazettes over here, but  
will be sure that we don't know which  
ones are being spoken of, when we read.  
You must not feel frightened about  
the Cholera over here, as we are taking  
every possible precaution, have not  
touched any (but bottled) water, fruit  
or fresh vegetables for a month, and so  
far, the Austrian Government has  
been wonderfully successful in keeping



the disease out of this country -  
By keeping all the rules of precaution  
against cholera - most strictly and  
severely - much to the disgust of the  
travellers, who are tramping through  
Switzerland from Germany and  
France and trying to come in to  
Austria. We ourselves just escaped  
being homily "injected", entering the  
Empire only a few hours before the

5<sup>th</sup> enforcement of the  
Law to Steam every per-  
son coming in, and  
their baggage until it is  
said they have nothing  
left in clothing, except  
soap. It is a monstrous  
but positive fact, that  
so far, not one case of  
Cholera has occurred  
within this Empire, though  
the illness rages on the  
borders. Fred thinks that

There will be more danger  
both in this country and  
America next Summer,  
as soon the fear will  
pass with the coming of  
cool weather, and then the  
germs, now in clothing  
and baggage, will be  
freely passed around  
everywhere. It would be  
terrible for it to get into the  
United States next Summer  
as it would interfere

greatly with the success of the "Exposition", to have rumors abroad of Cholera  
in our Country, so I hope they will  
keep up their precautionary measures,  
so the disease cannot break out  
here next June - I have just read  
in an American paper that Cholera is  
in Mexico and all around here, & the  
the official statistics give the facts,

to the surprise of Europe, that so far  
Austria is safe. - The Emperor has laid  
down early last Spring and truly  
expressed, that no Russian force should  
pass through this Empire, and that  
has prevented much trouble -

How lovely for you to have a  
nice pretty house in "Bellermore!"  
I know you will enjoy it immensely.

9<sup>th</sup>  
as that is a charming part  
of Chicago - I suppose if  
was one of the attractive  
business you pointed out  
to us when we were in  
Chicago last? I am also  
delighted to hear that  
Aunt Abby has a letter  
home now, and enjoys  
it, after her illness and  
is stronger - How charming  
it would be, if her husband  
and boys could see

her every comfort now,  
after she has lost so  
much comfort in the past.  
I think her naturally  
cheerful, affectionate na-  
ture has carried her through  
everything. It is a great  
help - I think the happi-  
ness consists one's own  
self, for all. I was  
struck with his telling  
me that, Aunt Mary

Moved very much over the loss of  
Sidney's Child - He was always tender-  
hearted and liked little babies so much -  
Poor Oscar! I am not surprised  
that fearful shocks have come upon  
him and that he cannot recover  
his cheerfulness - The "Loves" in the  
family, pretty homes, are diligent  
to think of - I regard anyone who



can own a nice house and live  
in it, in the United States, as a flat-  
tender, as I should more and more  
in case of the great wealth and  
extravagance at home. The longer I  
am here in this people old fashioned  
land — I am almost breathless when  
I read in the papers, accounts of enter-  
tainments and "givings on", there and  
feel that more, when I hear the

13<sup>th</sup> I read the Americanistalk,  
who come over here -  
We had Watson <sup>of Cairns</sup> Blair  
and Robert McCormick dine  
with us two evenings ago,  
and it seemed to me,  
that though Mr Blair  
was very modest in the way  
of putting things, still he  
and his wife were just  
going over the face of  
the earth, to see what  
they could buy and find

to enjoy and add to  
their luxuries. He left  
out also all about his  
"Jacht" and that <sup>one</sup> formed  
by Allison Arnons, etc  
etc. Not in a boasting  
way at all. But as the  
New Yorkers do, always, as  
if all those magnificent  
extravagances were only  
an unimportant necessary  
part of life. - Fred and

I feel too poor to enter the harbor  
of New York, even at Hoboken! Still  
we are comfortably off over here, be-  
cause people are not expected to be  
wealthy. The heads of the highest  
families are well off, have their  
castles and family jewels from  
ages past, but all others can go on  
"poor", if they are "nice". — L.

seems to me, from those whom we  
see ~~in~~ travelling or in Vienna, that  
the Americans are all Millionaires,  
but as Mr Blair says, the trouble in  
America seems, that those who are  
not in some profession or some  
business, do not know what to do,  
and so wandering for occupation or  
amusement. I am told that any  
number of young men are there, who

47<sup>42</sup>

Are rich sit around  
the Clubs, idly waiting  
for some thing that  
want bore them, and not  
one of them would  
think of living in a  
quiet Country home,  
improving it, enjoying  
their Mountains & Streams,  
for shooting etc, as the for-  
eign "idlers" do. They must  
all go to a Newport or  
some where to give after.

Noon tea or Chalking  
parties and balls. —

This you may think, a  
great sorrow on my part,  
but we are so pleased  
with the restful contentment  
of the old world, that  
Fred and I are going to  
see, if one could not  
enjoy a simple Country  
home in America, when  
we return, — as Fred  
gave up his profession

and does not wish to, if he could,  
go into business at this late day of  
his life. (6545?) He has had most-  
complimentary letters and messages  
from friends in Washington, from  
the President's family, himself, Senators,  
and friends, speaking of how well we  
have done here etc, and what a  
good record God has made etc, etc



is very gratifying, now that the time ap-  
proaches for us to leave. The Stanfords  
whom we have just met, told us, of several  
compliments the President had paid  
Fred at different times, and that he  
said, Fred's appointment had been the  
"most gratifying and satisfactory one he  
had made." Senator Stanford is a confi-  
dant of the President and he knows all

21<sup>st</sup>  
that he tells us to be a  
fact - Of course it  
does not mean saying that  
we are like other office  
holders and have to give  
up this nice position  
and comfortable living.  
But we are very grateful  
to have had it four years,  
and it has been a lasting  
benefit to the children  
giving them advantages

We could never have  
given them at home -  
I wish they could have  
staid even two years longer,  
but they will study  
hard this winter until  
April, as they both ap-  
preciate, thoroughly, their  
temporary advantages -  
They are very finely versed  
in history, languages  
etc - Fred has been

Amazed over and over again at  
Julia's strong chord of him in historical  
memoirs etc, during her travels. He  
has informed me privately, that she knew much  
more than he did and that her "head  
was full of information" - all this I  
know you will be glad to hear - and so  
I vainly boast of it to you - he, of  
course - hope Wynne can fit in  
to West Point and graduate - as he

Could not afford a College course, and  
the 'Army' is a very good place ~~at~~  
for profession. It is harder for young  
fellows who have <sup>no</sup> money, to make it, these  
days — We are going to send  
you ~~all~~ some photographs and  
you must write a line to tell us,  
how you like them — I am Home  
and decidedly say as you will see  
I do hope that you are all

2<sup>nd</sup>

taking as good care  
of yourselves, as we  
are, and guarding  
against the Cholera -  
We know Senator Mc-  
Pherson very well who  
is out on that steamer in  
"New York Harbor" where  
they are having Cholera  
His wife and daughter  
are over here and had  
written a week ago to ask  
us if it would be safe  
for them to come & visit.

said the Revolver had telegraphed them that  
Cholera was here — We had a long  
trip this summer, worked hard, & saw  
a great deal. I am glad to have gotten  
over, even so much of Europe as we have.  
Please let them see this, as I fear the  
also, will imagine us all ill with  
Cholera, here. — We are very careful but  
don't you believe what the papers there  
say — Of course, we have to take our chances  
so far have been for

Be very cautious as  
you all must  
be. Love  
to Uncle Ben  
sincerely and  
affectionately  
and the family  
and the  
children and  
ourselves  
affectionately  
Edw. J. W. Jr.

Thank you very much and the  
Memorandum "Cullings", the  
father, being interesting,  
though rather confused  
than statements with  
reference to relations  
of my parent family to the



2nd Love for him - He is such a pleasure  
P.S. One of the greatest  
pleasures I have is  
listening to all the beau-  
tiful compliments paid  
to her - It seems impossible  
for Americans to say enough  
of her great ability, fine  
character, breeding and  
refinement, etc. I want  
her to know that R. McCornick  
spoke beautifully of her - He  
and I were very friendly talked  
of old times and he spoke of  
how his mother admired mine