

10-14-1892

Ida H. Grant to Sis, October 14, 1892

Ida Honoré Grant

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Virginia Austin
Oct 14th 1892.

Dear Sir -

I have again so many
Thanks to send you and
such sincere feeling
about it, that it is difficult
to put all in words, but
you must already know
how very grateful I am
for your gift (so grand
a one too) which came
to me so unexpectedly

and without a word
from anyone at home.

Thinking for some
time in the morning,
I believed that Mother
probably sent me the
money knowing her
to be there in Chicago.
So I wrote her about
it, but it seems that
all the time, it was
you who had been as
good as to think of me,

amidst all your cares and duties,
and send me the lovely present.

Of course, you know how I appreciate
all your kindness, but you must
believe me, that I wish you would
not any more, load me with favors
and do so much for me and mine,
in every way. Now consider please
as we do, that you have done more

for me than any sister in the world
ever did for another, and that it is
enough. Do not follow out your own
generous impulses and keep sending
me for such gifts. Please believe that
we all have more than enough, and
that you must only think of me, as I
implied living in luxury. We are also
most obliged for that nice pretty intro-
duction you sent for Baroness Schmidt,

son who seemed wild by
it, and is most warmly
grateful begging me to
say this to you. He is
really talented and de-
serving and believes that
your recommendation
in America, will act
like balm, as every one
else believes. Indeed
no one ever lived, who
is spoken of and praised
as you are! all who

Just here, speak in the
same way of you, and
this just reminds me of
Mrs (Bedington) Barnes,
who is here, with her ra-
ther handsome daughter,
and who cannot say
enough about the great
admiration she has
always felt for you "What
a charming woman
you are to your station

home," how few times that such a
woman of beauty, talent etc, is to be
found in such a home, etc, etc,
She tells me that she is a bosom friend
of Mr Henry Shepard who adores you
and talks about you all the time,
and that she, Mrs Barnes, knows your
perfections all from her friends etc
etc - and altogether, I infer that you

do not admit - For Mrs Davies may
as much as you do some of her friends
and that she is feeling well taken
up a little by you, etc - I do think
we have always held aloof ^{from} them
wonderfully, as there is no harm in
her, on the contrary she says only kind
things of everyone, seems to have always
looked up to Ma with intense admira-

9th
man - He has a very
good looking and
rather sensible manner
shown Capt Keim and
several other Americans
seem to admire & re-
spect him, and he has
made rather a good
impression upon one
or two Americans who
have been in the same
hotel with them, at-

"Carlsbad" for two seasons
and talked with them
They think the daughter
good looking (and rich),
and among others,
^{the Barnes} they met Prince Henry
Liechtenstein, who sat at
table next them, and
bought them if they stopped
a few days in Vienna. He
showed them the city

and he has done so much to their
overwhelming pride and delight.
He told us, in calling a few days
ago, that he thought the girl intelligent
and asked us "who they were" and if
we would object to his inviting them to
go on a short trip, which he had
arranged for us to go with him, into
the country to see his family Castle.

Of course we spoke well of them, and
they went with us all being most de-
voted to me and attentive, etc. Mrs
Barnes told me that Prince Lubanowitch
had told her, that he "expected to
visit you in Chicago" which surprised
me, as I had never heard of that ^{the probably misunderstood him} until
seems that he is really going over-
next year, and I believe, that his father

13th
brother, since Alfred, is
going with him and
I do want you to "show
off" splendidly. I want
then to see your house
thoroughly, all that is
artistic and most re-
garded about it, and
your paintings, as they
note on that sort of thing,
and will be so surprised
to find it in real perfection.

from America
They generally see people
like the Barnes (who
are counting upon
making a great show of
their Prince) and I
want them, ^{the Liechtensteins,} to see that
Americans can be as
refined and Cultivated
as their Aristocrats, who
really are charming.

I want you to have
lots of servants in linen

in real quiet state, standing around
everywhere, bowing, and I want them
to see your most beautiful coaches
and Carriages — They will really be am-
used — You know the heir to this
Throne, Franz Ferdinand d'Este, is
now planning to go around the
world, commencing in the spring or
summer, to America, through China

Without State", (incog of course) but
it will be known all the time who
he is, and much be done for him. His
father the Arch-Duke Carl Ludwig
told Fred all about it, a few days
ago, when he received him in audi-
ence with reference to "World's Fair"
matter he, ^{Carl Ludwig} being the patron in name,
of the "Commission" here. The

^{17th}
Minister of State had
said also that the Prince
of Wales was going if
nothing occurred to inter-
fere. But he did not
say it was to be "announced
officially" to our Government,
(not yet anyhow) which is
probably because it would
be a little expensive for
him to handle all things
America and England.

as he has to the Russian
Throne, with proper
attendants and states
in India and China
Geornas, La will have
War-ships, and have the
Officers as his Counsellors
and attendants, but in
our countries it is proba-
ble that the Emperor
would not wish to pay
the pay ^{on each} for a whole

quite a number of Officials necessary for his
~~It would be different if it were his son~~
Heir, so many Ferdinand & Isabella will
probably pass through our Country
as a young Officers taking the title of
^{with him as his other officers}
~~some one~~ — Duchy — They want him
to see the world and broaden his
views, as he is very young and inex-
perience, having just recently begun

to prepare for his high position. He
is not very bright; neither is his father
especially as while the Emperor's son
was too brilliant, and it was thought
he studied too much and was too
much pushed in his youth, which
turned his brain (so it is said) when
he gave way in the end, to dissipation.
Hence if this is to be repeated from me

21st the Arch Duke
Now why he does not go
in state as the Heir to
the Throne - They say
simply that he prefers to
travel privately etc. But
(one knows they have a horror of the little changes in
our country)
Of course we will let
you hear all that he does
about it, and it is cer-
tain that the Arch Duke
his father, told the King that
he is going to America.
He estates of the Arch Duke

Stein's which we met
to the other day, are
simply grand, and have
been in their family
since 1100 — one of
the Castles having been
much beautified by
Prince Henry's Grandfather,
who was the one who
fought against Napoleon.
He sent a ship to America
with two gardeners and
a botanist on board,

to study our American trees and
bring over specimens of them all,
which are planted in the park
of one of the castles, where he also
arranged one of the grandest con-
servatories which exists. - This is
the place Prince Henry wanted to
take you out to see, if you had
had time, he wanted us to lunch

there, and drive to the other great
Castle which is about two hours
away from it, which we did when
we went out. I am so sorry you
did not see the magnificent old
places, which make this Tropaeum
here in the city, drive away before
them. - They have ten or twelve
such estates, larger and finer really

25th - than the Hapsburgs.
In fact, the small
country of Liechtenstein,
in which, the reigning
Prince, costs his own
money like the Emperor
does here, with his head
upon it, is the only coun-
try entirely independent
of the Crown - The Liech-
tensteins having Princes
being not subjects, to the
Emperor, but their family
and soldiers having al-
ways given him their

air, and their cousin
his defence, in time of
War. — Mrs Barnes had
seen Prince Henry day in
and day out, for two seasons
at Carlsbad and had
never heard how far
off he is from the head
of his family and also that
he is a Chevalier of the
Order of Malta, & was
never a man, as he puts
it "a Monk" — They were
perfectly dumb-founded

poor mother and daughter when I told them
this and then Mrs Barnes asked me with
some little curiosity, how far he was
from the inheritance of all these great
estates, and when I told her that, there
was the brother of the reigning Prince,
the two brothers of Prince Henry, and
7 sons of one brother, all between
him and the head of the family, and

that the Prince Henry had only his income
from the Matinee Order to live upon,
for which reason he had been made a
Knight (only those with 32 guineas being
eligible for the Knighthood) The Barneses
were truly amazed - By the way I was
very glad to hear from Miss Barnes all about
the "Bazaar", which you are to have in
your "lovely palace, for Charity" The costumes

the girls are getting to wear
to it, etc - and she said
it was to be given in Dec.
and that all the young
people were hoping
that you were going to
give a fancy-dance
ball after it, when the
young ladies might
wear their pretty Cos-
tumes as you. Home
was so grand for that
sort of thing, etc, etc, and
Mrs Barnes informed me

When all of Chicago was
eagerly waiting to see the
new part of your home,
the Art-gallery etc, and I
was very glad of all this
grandeur of yours being
discussed before 4 or
5 ladies who were here at
the time, dining with
the Barnes, - and I must
not forget to add, that
Miss Barnes said, she
was going to choose her
cuisine with respect

Care for your affair and the ball, in
London with the earnest hope of
being visited, etc. I was glad among
those who heard it all, was Miss Whitney
whose mother does so much for you
kind & entertaining in New York, and
at New York, only her horses are not so
large and fine as yours. By the way
Miss Whitney's "Dame de Compagnie" (who is
the same one that educated your lovely

Mrs. Bettyman and the two sister girls)
told Mrs. Hein (who told me) that Mr. Whitney
had told her in Paris this summer, that
Pauline might come home to Euler's
society this winter, but not if Cleveland
is elected, in this latter case, he prefers
to have his daughter continue studying
over here during this winter, and be
"presented and make her debut at
the Court of St. James", where he ex

jects to be ³⁸by May if
"Mr. Cleveland is elected
which was rather amusing
to hear through the gossip
of Pauline's, "dame de C."

Fred and I are being
sensible enough to pre-
pare for our return home
next year (though I don't
think I'll be ever quite
prepared to give up this good
place) for even if the
Whitneys do not "go to the
Court of St James," it is

no sign, that Harrison's being elected,
Let me not want to put some other
office-seeker like ourselves, in a place
which we have already enjoyed for four
years — Now I know with all you
have and hand, the "Inauguration Ball"
the other balls, society, demands, and those
of Wadsworth, you may not have time to
read all this scrawl. But in ending I
must add that I have heard they are really
going to appoint a "Lady's Commission"

— 35th —
to our "Exposition" from
here, after all, notwithstanding
the bankruptcy into ^{this}
the "Musical Exposition"
has thrown everyone. I
hope to learn more about
this and mile farther.
Emma says that Kate
Medill McCormick is fatally
ill with some trouble caused
by the swallowing of a seed
which has lodged where it
ought not to. — This is only
a report — Do give our
best love to all at home —
Sincerely & affectionately, Ida H. Hunt

I. H. Since I write you about
The Lady's Communion
which is to be appointed of
which name Theresa is
to be the patroness or lead
her name - she is the third
wife of the Emperor's brother,
Carl Ludwig, and the step-
mother of the Arch Duke
Ferdinand d'Este, who is
going to see the Exposition
You may surely expect him
& the two Prince Liechten-
steins. I am most anx-
ious to hear all about the
great "Inauguration ball," &

How you looked, what
you were - who you
were - what as you lead,
The President I suppose,
I suppose Mrs Garrison's
death interferes with
his being there. It seems
so very sad for her to be
so ill now and so
near death - I don't
think that will elect
Garrison by any means -
I may well think him
much better after the fact
Young Hancock C. is to
hold the position, perhaps?