

2-4-1893

## Ida H. Grant to Sis, February 4, 1893

Ida Honoré Grant

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/fdg-and-ihg-correspondence>

---

### Preferred Citation

[Title of Document], Frederick Dent Grant and Ida Honoré Grant Papers, Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, Mississippi State University Libraries

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Frederick Dent Grant and Ida Honore Grant Papers at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact [scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com](mailto:scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com).

Vernon  
Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 1893.

Dear Sir, I must thank  
you over and over again  
for all your kindness &  
the interest, which you show  
in your last letter, in  
Julia's "coming out." I do not  
hesitate to write you that  
she has been a wonderful  
success and it really amazes

me to see what a happy, de-  
lightful time she is having.

He was made of full more  
gloomy over the prospect  
of her being left standing  
quite alone, never being  
asked to dance, etc. etc.  
As all the diplomats, told  
me from time to time,  
that no foreign girl ever  
impressed Vienna "that the  
daughter of the France

"Ambassador stood, absolutely alone,  
"the evening of her presentation at  
Court and the diplomats were indig-  
nant over the lack of attention she  
received that some of them who never  
danced went over and asked her out,  
saying that the young "Courtiers" as they  
are called (the girls here), could not  
hear the young men to dance with



foreigners" etc etc - He told Julia that  
she must not enjoy the great power  
and grandeur before her, not think  
of herself, etc etc, and see all the  
uniforms diamonds, royalties, etc  
as I did not want her to feel neglected  
I spoke of her however to some of  
the ladies told them I was going to  
present her, though she was so

<sup>5<sup>th</sup></sup>  
young, because he was  
going away, and I wanted  
her to see the society <sup>here</sup>, though  
I added, because, she would  
be very quiet as she was still  
such a stranger, they all  
said they had heard she  
was so sweet & lovely and  
that she must get to know  
some of the young ladies.  
Some of the Maams said,  
there were three young  
ladies brought out last

Year, who kept over their  
Misery in being as for-  
ever at the ball, as Julia  
and I were quite prepared  
to be amazed if she danced  
once, but you may ima-  
gine her delight when she  
was asked, for the "Cotillon  
at the Court Ball" a week  
before hand, by the "Charge  
d'Affaires" from Belgium,  
who had taken to

showing her much attention at the  
skating-rink, where she wore every  
day, the lovely brown cloak I got at  
Recollections for her (through your kindness) and  
a pretty hot Tomahawk, and she met on  
the ice many of the young society  
people - The whole Diplomatic Corps  
then forming 'en cercle', to be

spoken to by the Emperor or presented  
to him, came in turn, to congratulate  
Julia upon her ~~debut~~<sup>debut</sup> from the Prince  
Down, dignified Bachelor Ambassadors  
and all - When she was presented later  
the gentlemen, Chiefs and Secretaries,  
who stood in a line opposite to her told  
her just what degree of patience

9<sup>th</sup>

They observed "an Julia's"  
When she was presented  
before, she and all  
watched her apparently  
with greatest interest,  
how she would conduct  
herself and indeed the  
whole court was, that  
she was wonderfully  
at her ease and at the  
same time very modest  
looking - The Emperor  
conversed with her quite



10<sup>th</sup>  
a long time, first in French  
and then when he asked  
if she spoke German and  
she replied easily in his  
language, he seemed  
perfectly amazed, Compli-  
mented her very much  
upon her fluency, hoped  
she would dance a great  
deal and enjoy herself  
very much - I felt very  
proud of her, thinking

in her, both when she was presented and  
during the entire evening later, as also  
did the Duchess of Cumberland and  
Other Royalties who had all heard of  
her being presented and complimented  
; Me especially upon her great success  
and having danced so much, when  
They said so wonderful for the first  
Time.



appearance too - In fact her suc-  
cess was much remarked and  
commented upon, and Fred and I  
were delightfully surprised the Min-  
ter of State, Count Kaluzky, and other  
older men of dignity asking to be pre-  
sented and telling no few young  
ladies had been so admired.  
That she was lovely, tre's gentille,

pared her thoroughly before  
hand for just what would  
happen and told her  
she must reply in German  
if they asked her about  
speaking their language  
as it pleased them so  
much. I thought her  
very perfect in her man-  
ners and all she said,  
and both the Emperor &  
Archduchess Maria  
Theresa seemed interested

and had beaucoup  
d'esprit. In fact, both  
Julia & I  
of us, and our dresses  
were complimented so  
much during the evening  
and the following day,  
in the German papers.  
Thus I should appear too  
vain to repeat it all,  
but want you to know,  
you and Ma, that owing  
to your kindness etc,  
Julia among the girls,

and was ruin, made a "bellic"  
of, most unexpectedly to herself and  
Parents, which became perfectly embarr-  
assing to me and was in rank all  
the evening, at the side of Madame  
Mazel, whose four daughters was  
presented to the Royalties just before  
Julia and was most embarrassed  
and awkward, though she is

really an intelligent, nice girl, but  
is homely and too late for the young  
men to dare to dance with her -  
Julia felt dreadfully, as <sup>Mary</sup> May is her  
most intimate friend and they  
had been rehearsing together and  
singing from over the coming presenta-  
tion, all the fall, May's Mother has  
given her very expensive dresses

and I among the married,  
I am certainly better dressed  
than anyone at the ball,  
and that our dresses  
are constantly spoken  
of as the most beautiful  
and elegant <sup>in Vienna</sup> - Julia  
danced every time, was  
taken up by the young  
Officers of the "Royal Guard"  
who led the dancing,  
and introduced her  
to all the Austrians  
and by the "young dips"



18<sup>4</sup>  
at places "I do not venture  
to enter, because of the  
extravagant prices and  
each dress is more imbe-  
coming to poor Mary  
than the last, being left  
to the dressmaker's taste.

The poor girl, has been  
kept home until she is  
now 20 years old with  
the hope, that she would  
get over her great thin,  
meagre look, and her  
happfulness, and her

Particular friend Miss Mayel who  
didn't know anyone, but after all  
Love May only got that one bouquet,  
and was asked to dance three times  
and stood during all the Cotillion  
and she was quite miserable. The  
Muzels, May and all, Congratulated  
us on Julia's being such a  
teller etc. Much to our embarrassment



There is nothing so bad as a neglected  
girl especially when she is a nice one.  
So we are especially gratified with  
Indio's being taken up this way - several  
friends sent me the Saturday evening  
German paper - in which my dream was  
described with enthusiasm (in some  
papers I have been mentioned (at the  
sides) immediately after the Royalties

Father and Mother <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~  
most anxious and more  
miserable at the evening  
Benton - Julia was so  
unhappy, that she spoke  
to the leader of the Royal  
Guard and told him,  
that her friend, had not  
been asked to dance &  
Would he please intro-  
duce some partners to  
her, and then she told her  
partner in the Cotton,  
that she must ask him  
to give a bouquet to her

before My<sup>22</sup> Lady Paget &  
the other Ambassadors,  
and Julia is mentioned  
as the "beautiful Miss  
Grant" and "Miss Grant-  
The beauty of the season"  
etc. - I also, was dumt-  
formeded to receive  
from 3 different ac-  
quaintances a picture of  
Julia which it seems  
appeared in the "New  
York Herald" without  
my name or reason, &

tell you that young Princess  
Liechtenstein presented her to all  
her young cousins Liechtenstein  
Schwarzenberg etc etc and other  
girl friends and Julia says she never  
saw anything like their amiability  
then and how they congratulate  
her upon her great success etc and  
tell her no foreign girl ever had

such a good time her - Her being  
intelligent, pleasant, speaking their  
language, and a good dancer,  
has been the cause of her being taken  
right in by the young people - Night  
before last Fred and I peeped in  
their supper room, all of them being  
seated at tables, and we found Julia  
at one round table with 4 young

with no mention of her  
being made in the  
paper at all, only her  
name written under  
the picture in the  
paper sent to me, which  
we scanned for a word  
about her - The papers  
here, have as I said been  
all sent to me and  
mentioned to Julia at  
the balls by the other  
young girls - I got



26<sup>th</sup> Men talking to her, as  
she said when she and  
her partner sealed them-  
selves the other gentlemen  
just brought their plates  
over and joined them  
she got 16 bouquets  
that evening in the  
collation, and 16 gorgeous  
ones of beautiful flowers  
supplied by the young  
gentlemen themselves,  
at the great ball given

Square dance between this and  
Cent, the Announcing part was there  
engagements were made for  
balls at the Palladium and the  
Grand final Court ball which  
we had not then yet been asked  
to — As in this high Circle all  
know exactly what others are doing  
and what is going to happen. If



Was of course, a treat to Julia that we  
had made friends here who seem to  
like us. The high people have really  
taken us up more thoroughly this  
year than ever before. The Leichten  
steins have been most kind to us  
and had us dine with them twice.  
The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland  
had us to dine sent young Prince

by the nobles called  
last evening, some giving  
her violets because  
they said she liked them  
and her partner and  
another gentleman  
coming to give her her  
choice of their bouquets  
before they presented  
any to others - Last Satur-  
day evening Juliana was  
engaged ahead for  
every cotillion and

30 Prince George the future  
Duke of Brunswick, to  
play with our son, Mary  
unexpectedly but spent  
Sundays with his father-  
man in waiting - and  
invited Plymoe there to  
play with the Prince  
at "Pussing" two weeks  
ago, when he took tea,  
with the Duchess her-  
self and the Princess  
Mary (daughter of the  
King of Hannover sister

Arch-dukes danced until morn-  
ing as it was fire, the ball, by Royalties

The Archduke honored Julia by  
dancing with her 4 times much  
to Fred's delight and the Archduke  
Ludwig Victor Complimented her  
extravagantly to me saying she was  
so charming interesting etc etc  
most like her Maama etc in the

usual style of Compliments  
I tell you all this because I  
know you are interested and  
so will Ma be as this is for her  
and Aunt Laura to read -  
I am awfully tempted to accept  
for Julia another dress from you  
as I am really driven to despair  
about keeping her in dresses

of the Duke of Cumberland  
and the young Prince.  
At the Cumberland's  
Hall / they always confined  
themselves to simple dinners  
and receptions before you  
see how fortunate Julia is)  
the Duchess herself danced  
the entire evening, the  
Archduchess (the widowed  
Crown Princess Stephanie)  
the Princess Marie sister  
of the Duke, the young  
Archduchess, and three



35  
She needs so much  
more than I had any  
idea of and the white  
Cape does not turn  
out to look half like  
enough - Everything  
gets so torn and worn  
dancing until morning  
every moment, and the  
Officers & Pers (they all  
Princes and Counts wear  
full uniforms) wear the  
dresses fearfully - I am

stuff you sent me last year  
made up by Brecole very beau-  
tifully (but he charged too much I  
think 90 florins) and Julia wore it  
<sup>(all pulled out)</sup>  
just once when it was ruined and  
I had the seamstress make up  
the other piece (I think the stuff was  
for window curtains) exactly copying



the first dress and now that is ruined  
and I have had my old embroidered  
Turkish silk muslin made for Julia  
over ~~to~~ (the yellow silk you gave  
me under a brocade) and she has  
already danced in it three times  
worn it very much. Then she  
sees the same set of people every

Sorry now I did not  
get Julia Cheaper dresses  
in the beginning and  
more of them - Just like  
as the girls wear here, though  
the costumes are lovely,  
they are all the year  
for this gay season -  
I have had a beam-  
stream mending every  
day since Julia began  
dancing and I have  
had the Talmon colored

Night - She has worn  
 the fine green Steele  
 made over silver, Wine,  
 to the second Court  
 Ball and to the Stickers  
 of Cumberland - She  
 must wear it again  
 to the Palladium  
 Grand Ball as it, and  
 the White Tatin and  
Chiffon - which later  
 she wore to the First

her so particularly popular  
and hearing about how this  
"young man brought this bouquet  
especially for her" The flowers are  
wonderful and two young men  
came directly to her to give her  
first choice last night from their  
bouquets - but I really do not  
feel able to buy another dress  
and still there is to be a ball  
every night between this and  
lent a magnificent Palladium  
and the finest most choice Court  
ball at which everyone will  
wear a new toilette, so you see  
how I am tempted to get Julia  
another dress from you as you  
propose - I had no idea what

Court ball are her  
two finest dresses. The  
Jenny <sup>girls</sup> have their truntings  
and dresses almost torn  
off of them and Julia  
has done very well in  
taking care of things, but  
I am becoming quite  
desperate about getting  
her things enough to  
finish out the season  
having all the time  
the comfort of seeing



It was to have a  
daughter who is a  
pronounced success  
in society dancing  
every night - Julia in-  
forms me that she is  
now engaged for every  
single dance between  
this and Lent -

I ~~am~~ ought not to place  
temptation in my way.  
We want more



for one's Children than for  
one's self so I feel a perfect  
relief when you tell me to go and  
get Julia what she needs —  
I'm great haste and  
hoping you'll send this with  
enclosures to Ma — Yours affectionately  
Wm H Grant —