

9-30-1889

## Ida to Ma, September 30, [1889]

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).

1889

Monday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>

Address — "IV, Schwindgasse 4.

1<sup>st</sup> street  
Vienna

Dear Mr,

Your very acceptable  
gifts with Aunt Laura's  
and Aunt Mats' came  
to us on Saturday last,  
and the opening of them  
was delightful excitement  
to us all - Indeed I  
think I am shame-  
lessly pleased with all



Presents from home -

The bed-covers are  
really most acceptable,  
for though we had some  
blankets they were not  
all unsoiled, and had  
been found with moths  
in them - Our room be-  
ing chilly and the chil-  
dren having the linger-  
ings of their Coughs when  
ever they take the slightest  
colds it seemed really  
absolutely necessary to get

the soft warm sick Comforts for them.  
Julia's of course just matched her  
~~room~~ which is exactly here what it  
was in New York. The light set that  
Mrs G. gave her with the Curtains, bed-  
spread and pretty things you sent her.

Her brother's room being in red, with  
the brass bed I had for Julia in Morris-  
town, his spread is simply perfect. The  
pretty velvet Curtains were put up in a red  
chamber, as pictures in our little parlor, as  
dressing-room, in which I had some soft  
India silk Curtains at the window, that  
I got from me, which are exactly the shade  
of the velvet ones, and of the beautiful Chair  
Covers, so that room is in that color.

old<sup>er</sup> with the small Ag-  
ency and the one that  
always was with it in our  
Sitting-room or was in  
the hall at Morristown.  
The gas-fixture not being  
put up until that present  
was most acceptable and  
always will be, as we use  
Candles a great deal here,  
and our dining-room is  
large - The Japanese still

just matches my room  
which has the Wall Covering  
exactly the shade of the  
satin, and the other just  
with blue patterns simply  
beautiful - Our apartment  
was scoured well and  
cleaned before our com-  
ing into it - The boxes 102  
immense things were  
all put in one day, and  
the next morning the  
men began slabbing  
and hammering them

open and I had my thing unpacked  
in the large hall and carried from  
there to its right place - Within a  
week we got in and in two days, I  
gave a little afternoon "tea" for some  
Americans who were here - This time of  
course I mean for - Among them  
was the Senator Stewart of California -  
Whom I wanted to be sure to entertain  
on Lock's account, because I always  
heard they were so nice to him - then the  
Senator had been Chief among those who  
made Col. G's Confirmation unanimous  
in the Senate - The others who came to  
see me were some Newberry's of London  
who brought a letter from the Duke  
were some Burbanks of N.Y., who  
knew all about the case, among our friends

the morning. During the unpacking  
of the boxes, I came in from  
the country early with Fred,  
and left the children there,  
returning again late in the  
evening. As I did not wish  
everyone to think I was  
in town, and witness the  
congratulation of such an open-  
ing. On Sunday, we came in  
to town and went to the "Munch  
Hall," but only remained  
two days, as we could not  
resist coming over to the

Apartment - The man whom  
I had as Butler had been  
in the house all week,  
and went out to bring  
me in my meals as I  
had a cold and indulged  
myself while Fred and  
the children went every day  
to the "Hotel Impense" to  
get what they needed -  
I didn't seem ready at  
all to be leaving home  
without a cough, as in this  
land one can always have



meals brought in, no matter where one's  
home is situated - By exertion on the  
part of every one (we had six men to  
pack the gear boxes) we got the bags  
down, pictures hung, tables placed  
around with some ornaments on them  
and enough silver and china out for  
me to have the "tea" on Tuesday - I then  
had to ask Mrs Hearst and the Reverend  
to call at five o'clock and so he invited  
every American on the hotel and all who  
came into his office during the day -  
as well as our new Sec. and wife - I  
had been corresponding with, and waiting  
off as it were, Mrs Hearst who had invi-  
ted me to lunch with her and supposed  
that I was in town - I got out of a trunk,  
the purple plush wrapper with yellow trim



13<sup>th</sup>  
Under white lace & I showed  
it to you, had it made just  
before I left, really a beauty,  
and felt altogether fine and  
like a lady - Everyone  
admired Aunt - found out  
our settled look and ad-  
mired our fully American  
things very much, & who  
are really a better quality than  
anything one can buy  
here - That evening two  
odious Boston men came  
in who were having the

Following Mommy and at  
nine o'clock, I was in  
the Children's Room seeing  
they were Confining etc, when  
a Mr Perce was announced  
who had stopped in town  
not two hours and took  
occasion to call quitting  
his Card written that he  
most wanted to shake hands  
with the son of General  
Grant, etc. - I said him,  
and he rushed off in a  
few moments, but I noticed

Now he seemed to examine every thing  
very carefully in that short time and  
Yesterday Mrs Chew lent me the en-  
closed article, which seemed to be the  
result of Mr Peice's examination of us,  
cut from a Paris paper. I was very  
glad he didn't say that my hair looked  
rough and we were all sleepy. I retired  
last night feeling that one whirl of un-  
packmy and receiving my letters  
beyond my control. The reporters  
are those whom one least suspects. There  
are no correspondents here, for American  
papers, but people talk & report —

We are delighted with having our friends  
here, which Fred and I have been always  
so pleased over, and if it had been  
left there, it would have been ruined in

Another year, as some  
Moths had gotten into one  
or two bags, and Chairs  
Which we are now having  
steamed and the hair  
soiled — The house is  
the Morristown Cottage just  
as you remember it,  
with a much larger parlour  
and dining room which  
makes the furniture look  
better everything placed as there

P.S. Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Dear Mary Eliza

aside the letter before I  
am ashamed to sign  
it now, as I have really  
been extremely busy and  
know you would under-  
stand just how it was.  
Before we were settled Fred  
received a telegram from  
Senator Evans. Asking  
if we would be in Vienna  
at the end of the following  
week, as he and his family  
would be here then and  
would like to meet us—

I saw how it would be that Mr. Wines  
feel embarrassed not to be in order,  
to receive them, and without a cook,  
so I hurried to get one with an assist-  
ant (they will have a maid here) and  
on the following Saturday we had  
all our finest China, silver and  
linen out, and gave a dinner of 12  
people to the Earls, who seemed to  
appreciate it very much, as well as  
the attentions which we showed  
them, all during their week's stay  
here - Fred had to give almost his  
entire time to the old slave, who  
poor man, was here to have his eyes ex-  
amined as he is almost blind - The

2<sup>nd</sup> -

accused & encouraged  
him greatly, by telling him  
that he would not lose  
his eyesight entirely, he  
thought. - On Sunday  
we had a letter from  
Mrs. Stocking, daughter of  
Justice Miller whom we  
have always known in  
Washington in which she  
said, that having a lot  
of friends with her here,  
she would like to bring

them to call of Mr Cones  
receiving her and I appointed  
the 9<sup>th</sup> of Oct. and  
also, asked some other  
Americans, who had sent  
Colonel Grant a pretty greeting  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, expressing  
pleasure at his coming  
here etc. - We had 19  
Americans Julia said,  
which is a large number for  
Verina - As it was holiday  
afternoon the children  
came in, and Julia helped



pass the Tea when I poured it, -  
and made herself quite useful.

I have been very anxious about  
his on account of the rumors of  
storms, but suppose she is now all day  
at home. I feel so sorry to hear her  
sail but Fred and I will expect her  
and Mr Palmer back next summer and  
also Mrs Grant - his was so kind to me  
as she always is - In fact I don't see any  
reason for me to escape having that little  
character I may have, ruined by my  
family's over-indulgence. - Also,  
Mrs Grant was very generous, and for  
Fred an elegant Russian rug 18 by 25 ft.  
for our hall, a beautiful set of 4 doz. Swedish  
plates, set of Karlsbad Glass - and

a doz. beautiful, fine  
 silver plates - We have  
 every thing in the world  
 that we can wish for  
 and more than we ever  
 hoped to have - By laying  
 by this summer, we have  
 been able to bring over  
 the things and get into  
 the house most com-  
 fortably - I would like to  
follow my inclination,

and can a little, but  
it is really made almost  
impossible for me by the  
servants, who assume  
them, those ladies of certain  
rank should not know  
anything about the house-  
keeping, and then a certain  
state is demanded of  
the Minister of the House  
but his footman and  
servants in living and  
either hire by the month  
or own a carriage.

I think After the beginning is all  
settled and we are started, I can  
get things under control - This is  
really old fashioned and just what  
we go out constantly at all, and  
though this state is demanded  
there is a boundary line, and we  
need not touch or be in a whirl which  
I was tired of in Washington and  
N.Y. - the same in London - People  
to glorify and praise here - Then we  
go to the Opera all the Carnages are  
stopped when it is known that this is an  
Primer - All the officials on the stair-  
case bow low as we pass etc, and the  
forms would entertain for what surprises

29<sup>th</sup>

The each time and  
always, is the continual  
Rising of my hand  
by servants - It is most  
unpleasant really than  
<sup>them</sup> dash at you on every occa-  
sion, and take your hand  
to kiss - I am so very  
very sorry not to have been  
keeping house when dis-  
tress here - but we can  
do more another time -

I have been trying to per-  
suade him to come over,  
but he does not seem to  
promise here at all.  
He and I are both ex-  
pecting you, now that  
your affairs are settled  
and you can get off -  
You must bring one of  
the boys and run over  
to London and then on to  
see me - It is really aw-  
ful

thing to cross. Pa has been so kind  
in sending me not only the 50 lbs  
but a pretty tea form, but I have  
written him, that it is too much and  
that he does not come down <sup>himself</sup> that I will  
keep it as because he thinks it  
expensive for a trip to such a  
great old fashioned country and that he  
must save this in making his mail  
to me his present time, instead  
of my spending it - We are now all  
expecting Nellie to come, as soon as  
she is settled on her home - she intends  
upon doing that first, and leaving her  
little girls there, instead of coming now  
and bringing them with her - I don't suppose  
than her, as it is said to her 5th left, married

P.S. Dear Mr. I am going  
back for Wear my  
letters, not that they are in-  
teresting, but as a journal  
for myself of my life here,  
as I have not time to say  
one and I write for all  
the news - Will you just  
kindly put them in a box  
for me, also this Clipping  
from newspapers - I ask you  
because I think you won't  
mind the trouble of putting  
them away. Aff. Ida & Gust