

CHARING CROSS HOTEL

Sunday Nov. 3^d 1872

Dear Mother
Since writing you
last Sunday and in which letter
I stated I had received a letter
from you that same morning I
have not been in receipt of any
message but no doubt the first
of this coming week's mail will
bring me one - the letter which
you spoke of in your last which
you were going to write - and many
was duly received - Well here we
are again in England - our Paris
part of the trip was not indeed
a very enviable concomitant that
we supposed would be the
most important and interesting
point of interest - the weather
during our whole stay in that city
was rainy and disagreeable - the
Hotel far miserable and everything
far below the grand scale which one

supposes it to be who has not tested it by experience - it is as well enough for those who like French customs - French food and French manners - but generally I don't think it suits American people - its Boulevards its avenues and its streets are all grandly laid out and present a uniformity and grandeur which please the eye - its public buildings and parks all these rank far superior to our Metropolis. Its public regulations - its strict laws and the regularity and uniformity with which all modes of public conveyance are carried on all tend to the credit of the city Government and the health and accommodation of the people - but as for possessing such a superior scale of excellence and magnificence as regards the more numerous modes for shopping and purchasing everything or as some term

it being the Grandest Magasin of the world - I for my part can't see it in one thing it outdoes us and that is in prices - but if I were wealthy and with plenty to do with I would willingly pay the difference be better pleased - receive more attention and shop and buy in our own 'little town' - as for living they don't know how to live - meat - such meat - you don't get meat I don't know what the proper name would be for it - bread - not much - a long roll of crust - hard and indigestible - and dirt - well I used to be told a certain allowance of dirt a person took into the system - no matter how particular they was - I think the allowance with any body that eats French food becomes a chronic complaint necessary to existence - leaving Paris as an over-estimated and too popularly drawn city - you place us last Friday at 5.30 a.m. - as usual rainy & cold - leave St. Leger 6.45 a.m. - on the Rail Road

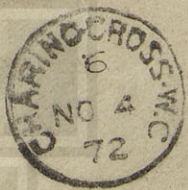
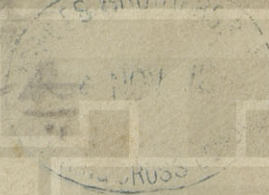
Station at 7.10 coach awaiting me bag.
9 bags - "14 pieces" all registered - tickets
procured and seats secured - arriving
at "Calais" without change about
1.15. aboard an "English Steamer" a
small mean affair - miserable ac-
commodations and that not for
half the passengers - a small little
stunken cabin down stairs or sit on
the open deck - only a trip of an hour
and a half but accross the much
dreaded (for those who are subject
to sea sickness) English Channel
commenced raining a little before we
left but stopping again we remained
on deck - left Calais about 1.30. no
sooner outside the harbor and com-
menced the rolling and pitching
and to make it pleasant and more
agreeable - fine misty rain - to go
down stairs would be to insure
sea sickness - bring a little hungry
I laid in several ham sandwiches
and a bottle of ale - but I can assure
you it did not stay long down -
all through that hour and a half
we sat in that misty rain being
only partially protected by a small

16) arrived at Dover about 3 P.M. - took
train to London straight - no stops
a trip of nearly three hours the
longest continuous travel we
have had (without stopping at
least) we came on this side -
it rained in London while we were
on the train - arrived at our destination
Charing Cross Station about 6 P.M.
the station somewhat resembles the
depot at large depot at 4.12 in
fact all the depots are on a scale
of magnificence equal to the
portion of not greater than our best
Hotel which bears the same
name - you enter from the depot
in fact the back of the Hotel looks
into the depot - but when you
have your room facing on the
(other) front side - there is not any
inconvenience from the depot in
fact you never hear anything of the
train at all - we have very com-
fortable rooms indeed and the lighting
is a vast improvement on the "frank"
I hear from reliable authority that
the weather has been very dry and very

(5) and
pieces of canvas put up to keep the
wind off and which fortunately
partially served us as a screen
from the rain which to get through
the holes and spaces took a little
of the wet & unpleasantness of
my rubber overcoat - all of our
party were sick but James and
Joe - and one other I had a stomach
good time of it - having eaten my
dinner I had the satisfaction of
showing something for my feeling -
it doesn't make much difference when
you sit in the dirt when you feel
that way or in dirt or any where
else the most convenient spot
is the water - I didn't care about
availing myself of the canvas screen
the rain didn't bother me much
my coat protected me but
a little and my boots which were
somewhat damp not the most
enjoyable trip for me - but it was
some satisfaction - Look where
I might have been a victim to the
unpleasant weather - I was
not a victim to the weather

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Nov 18



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"Finale"