

4904

Kerlouire
Beaulieu

Friday Nov. 8. 03

Dearest Miss Jyr Many thanks for your kind letter received yesterday; likewise enclosure which include an exquisite photograph of a dame amongst anemones seen for the first time by me. We arrived here on Monday. The last 2 or 3 days ~~at~~ Venice were exceedingly wet, cold & the weather was so beastly that we had to give up our plan of spending a day at Verona en route which was a sad disappointment. We left V. at 8 a.m. Sunday parted (with bitter tears from P.S. - she is charming) at Milan from Miss Lloyd & arrived at Genoa about 6 in the evening. Next morning was fine & we had an exquisite drive round about before leaving at 1. After a terrific scene at Ventimiglia over the boxes we arrived here safely at 6 & found Madame Jueysee waiting on the platform. I had fully made up my mind to proceed home at the end of the week but this place is so fascinating & the weather so divine that I cannot quit. For the first time this year the summer has been caught - I fear by the tail, but anyhow

here it is in full swing. All winter clothes have been cast to the dogs & my ~~thinnest~~ thinnest silk blouses are much too hot. The sun shines like mad & the whole affair reminds me of the ~~pleasant~~ cold weather in India. Dorothy & I deeply lament that Papa can't be here.

The day after our arrival we hurried to Roquebrasse to view the house. I shan't attempt to give any account of the circles but shall wait for the word of mouth. The menuisier is a most weird party - a regular old character; up to the last moment he was ~~most~~ disagreeable & unwilling to sell but now that all is over he has suddenly turned over a new leaf & become positively jinking in his effusions. We all had to join in drinking each other's healths in beakers of pale freshly made wine & were invited to dinner to partake of a dish of Bouillabaisse! The house is charming, situation acknowledged by all to be the best on the coast. The tram from Monte Carlo to Mentone passes within 5 minutes from the door - will pass thro' to say in a few weeks as the service has not yet begun though the construction of the line is finished. Since they were here a large hotel has been begun on the road beneath them which slays the tea house but in other respects is considered an advantage, as

electricity etc. will be conveyed past their front door & provisions etc. will be easier to cope with. Villas will no doubt begin to spring, but short of an Eiffel Tower it would be practically impossible to block their view. Altogether they are considered to have nabbed the house at the right moment & the investment is supposed to be good. It is hoped that building operations will be set in train next week. There is not much to be done - a marble staircase or so & packing cases can be housed meantime though not humans.

On Wednesday we went to Mentone & thoroughly explored Aunt Nell's new house - very nice indeed though the situation can't compare with Himalaya. We went in the vague hope of finding Lady C. & Mr. G. waiting to give us afternoon tea & were disappointed not to find them. Yesterday morning Albert took us for a grand drive round the Cap Ferrand & St. Jean, & in the afternoon we went to Nice & admired the shops etc. We also called on the hostess of the Hotel of the Cascade Borion who has an ~~boarding~~ charming boarding house at Nice. She is a person great friends with D. & B. & her house is strongly recommended to travellers. The pink of

Chantinesco, excellent chef, extreme serviability
+ generosity in the way of extra tumblers of
milk, ~~eggs~~ for breakfast etc., + price for front
rooms 7 frs. a day. We were given a most
exquisite tea, + the kitchen wench (who was a
friend of the Boréon) was ~~at~~ ~~the~~ once told of
our arrival. She hurried into the room +
affectionately embraced Dorothy on both cheeks -
a most charming sight with her beaming
countenance + stealthlike blue linen apron - an
absolute savage of the mountains, bare shuffling
arms, plodding feet + wide grinning mouth,
young + strong + very pleasing. Home Virginia.

I must be off. Mad. S. embraces you
well. D. sends love. Albert sends hommages
+ S. not to be outdone sends ditto respectful.
We go to visit the Aquarium of Villefranche.

Tender love from
Yours

P.