

Via della Croce 71. Roma.

Jan. 7th 1886. 5797

My dear Elsie, I had your card last week after I had written your letter with the card from Miss Hutton inside it yesterday, and to-day the one with the Ind. Pen. Cheque, and Mabel's letter. I was going to write for the £2 Cheque, but I shall not want it now, as I can cash this. I cannot make out what it means by interest and dividend, but I suppose it is all right. G. Smith paid £300 for this £200 Stock, so it is rather less than ^{for the half of year} 5 percent. I have had letters from Aunt Susan, Mrs Buckle & Amelia Fowler, in answer to mine. The Fowlers have moved into the country. I have had two mornings this week with Miss Muddie's friend, Madame Montebelli. She reminds me very much of what I remember of Mrs Crank. I went with her each morning to go over the Municipal School, one a free school for the poor, and the other a paying school, but under Government regulation. They are very well taught, but not to such an extent as in England. I only saw the Girls' and Infants' schools. There were a great many mistresses, and apparently of a better class than with us. I saw two such pretty games being played by the little children under six, which Lillian & Mabel might teach some day to the children in Liverpool. I brought away some of the girls' exercises in composition. I never saw such beautiful writing as among these Italian girls - and their mending, patching and darning is really as beauti-

tiful as fancy work. They are introducing
the teaching of Domestic Economy into the
Girls' Schools, and the Director showed me
an English School Text Book which had
been sent for them to have translated &
approved of. It was by a ^{an F.S.} man, and not
half so good as that one of Mrs. Wieg-
wells. Will you ask Lillian to send the
title, price, and publisher's name of the
book, on a card addressed,

Mme Montiroli,

Via Cavour, 23. Rome.

or better still, the book itself, by book post,
and I will give you the money for another.
It might not arrive until after I
had left, if sent to me. But if the book
is not at hand, do not trouble about it.
Mme Montiroli has asked me to go
to their house on Monday, when she is re-
ceiving friends. Her husband is the State
Architect, and has had the direction of
all the excavations in the Forum, &c, and
I am going early to see the photographs
and drawings of the work. She is
Hon. Inspector of the Government Girls'
Schools in Rome, and takes very great
interest in the work of Education. She

has promised to send me a ticket for a
great ceremony next Sunday in the Pantheon
where Victor Emmanuel is buried. It will be
the anniversary of his death, and the King
and Queen are to be there.

I am wondering what will be best
to do about my journey back to England
and to Liverpool. I really do not think I
can come straight on to Liverpool from
here. My things are not fit to be seen, and
I should not like to spoil my first coming
by feeling uncomfortably shabby and worn
out. I think I will leave here Friday 14th

That is a week to-day, travel straight on
to Paris, which I shall reach on Sunday
morning - rest Sunday in Paris, and at
night cross by Dieppe, and reach Shelburne
some time on Monday. I will write to Mrs.
Burstan to come in, and I can sleep
either at the house if there is time to air
two beds, or at the Coffee Tavern, or
I could ask Mr Dawson to let me
go there for a night. Then I could
look out my things and pack a
trunk comfortably, and be with
you on Wednesday in time to see

Roll before he goes to school. I have
my seal jacket, boots, and white cap
besides other things at Malvern. I must
make a bonnet on Tuesday if I can, or at
Liverpool. I am wearing the 11-braid one
still that I got at Towndrows. There is no
packing a bonnet in a Gladstone bag, so I
cannot make one here. I have been
trying this morning to find a St. Jerome
but there is not one in Rome. There is
a large photograph of the Madonna di
Foligno, ^{the Assumption} with a St. Jerome in it, and the
picture is so beautiful that I think I will
get it. The Roman Antiquity photographs
are very effective, but I do not think
those of religious pictures ^{here} are so good
as in other places - Florence, Milan, Venice.
There is a large water colour drawing in a
shop near here - The Arch of Titus with the
Coliseum seen through it - which I had
been meditating bringing over with me.
I have got two very pretty Roman pearl
necklets for Lillian & Mabel - four strands
of fine pearls. I have some small
antique earthen lamps; which burn as
well now as they did 2000 years ago.
I put some oil and a wick in one

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one of them one night. Numbers of
them were found during the excavations.

If you write after Monday next week
I think it had better be sent to Shalburn
with ~~not~~ "to be left till called for."

I do not think I could do better than
as I have said about my journey.

I shall be as glad when it is over
as you to have the "moving" over.

I hope the Curate will turn out to
be the right man. So much of Mr
Stephenson's comfort in his work
will depend on the kind of helper he has.

A great deal that one sees here makes
one feel that Ritual has its good side,
especially for the poor. The open churches,
the short services, and the mingling of
rich and poor - the warmth, music, colour,
light, and the Symbolism which is a
help to uncultivated thought, are all good.

I do not think there is so much distress
here as we have at home. I must foot
now to the post. I send my love to all

Yours affly

May Catharine Taber.

I was thinking yesterday in the church
about little Joseph. It was forty one
years yesterday since he died. I wonder
what the manhood would have been
that was cut off when the little
life went out.

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From Rome