



[Illustrations around page with labels:]

Royal Place [written sideways] Unter Der Linden Museum.
Lustgarten.

Brandenburg Gate Kings Private residence

Brand. Thor. Konigs Palais.

Arsenal.

Zeughaus. Universitat.

Royal Opera

Opernhaus. Kings Theater.

Schauspielhaus.

Berlin Vom Kreuzberge

Berlin – Nov. 26. 1855 –

My Dear Parents –

The small letter enclosed was to be sent with Mr. Masons despatches, on the day following its date – that being prevented – to save writing it all over again I have brought it on with me to Berlin to send with this illuminated sheet –

The dusky pictures are not very luminous but give a tolerably correct idea of the atmosphere through which I have seen the buildings of Berlin – Indeed there has hardly been an hours sunshine along my road since my arrival – It has been cold, also – a chilly air – not a good, honest open, tingling Down East frost, but a

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society

MMN #31790

Date: Nov. 26, 1855

Description: Josiah Pierce letter from Berlin

dubious, foggy, miserable, shivering wet blanket of an atmosphere, so that nothing looked warm, pleasing, or delightful through it - and I don't wonder so many Englishmen hang themselves in November.

To resume my diary - the only one I have kept, being in letters to you -

Nov. 14th in the evening I went to the Vaudeville Theatre - where very amusing little comedies are played - usually 3 in an evening - with great spirit & gesticulation. After the theatre was over - about 11. P.M. to the Jardin d'Hiver (winter garden) in the Champs Elysees. an immense green house - containing restaurants and smoking-rooms, a pistol gallery - beautiful arched walks (2 stories high) around the walls inside, with many huge green plants, palm-trees, acacias &c. and in one place, a little labyrinth of walks around a tall fountain. In the center of the building, is a vast ^{dancing} hall - floored smoothly, with tiers of seats along the sides - an orchestra of an hundred musicians led by the famous Musard furnishes tremendous quadrilles, waltzes, galops, polkas, &c, while in the brilliantly lighted space in front, with the dark green leaves gleaming all around, and gaily dressed promenaders passing in and out of the walks, through the middle of the night, are whirling, prancing, galloping and twisting about hundreds of Bacchanalians - male & female - of the most respectable class of young men about town, and the gayest milliners, Lorettes, &c - Bonnets & hats are not taken off, and over-coats only when the heat requires it - so that the costumes are as odd and promiscuous as the people - Everybody in Paris, and generally in Europe, you know, dresses to suit his or her taste, age, or appearance: a much better way than ours -

Thursday, Nov. 15 - Took a comfortable warm bath - one of the real luxuries for a traveller in Europe. Here it is customary to sit a long time in a bath, read the paper: take coffee, and afterwards some favorite cordial. The Frenchmen drink absinthe everywhere. Then to a tailor, for another suit of clothes, which with others will make about \$200. of clothes I have bought since leaving home - for they are dear, and not so good in Russia -

Then to the fine old garden of the Tuileries, to see the imperial procession to the Palace of the Exposition for its closing ceremony. at noon,

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amid firing of cannon from the Hotel des Invalides - the Emperor & Empress left the Tuileries with their "cortège" - Crowds ^{of spectators} lined the route they took, all the way - $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the Tuileries: but an unbroken line of soldiers kept the spectators back. First came a squadron of guides - then of curéassiers - then carriages of the imperial family - Prince Napoleon, the President of the exposition - Jerome Bonaparte - &c &c - gay liveries, beautiful horses - last in a magnificent coach drawn by six horses, with superb caparisons for the horses, & uniforms for the postillions & equerrys & attendants - The Emperor & Empress. He looked calm, but rather care-worn - she very handsome - & pale - with a large forehead & beautiful light-brown hair - Then the Cent Gardes - (the 100 guards) a picked body of men, on grand black horses - the finest company in the world - each private in which ranks as an officer - with corresponding pay - One thing was very noticeable - no cries of "Vive L'Empereur" were raised by the crowd, although the government papers of the next day said there were -

In the Central Hall of the Exposition Palace 30,000 people were gathered on an amphitheatre of seats. The walls were superbly decorated with crimson velvet hangings, with fringes and tassels of gold lace - festoons of artificial flowers and leaves were gracefully wreathed along the sides - flags of all nations hung around the roof, above their national shields - Two American flags were very nearly over the Emperor's head. The most beautiful pictures, tapestry and articles of ornamental art were gathered from the Exposition to add to the adornment - Strains of martial music filled the vast space, under the lofty roof of glittering glass which is supported by lightly springing girders of painted iron like the boughs of Elm-trees - and the Emperor made his loud speech and Prince Napoleon (nick-named "Plon-Plon") replied, and the rewards were distributed as you have seen in the papers - I arrived too late at Paris to get a ticket of admission, but saw all the decorations and heard the music on the following Monday -

This day I had a luxurious Paris dinner with my travelling friend, Cary, at the Café de Paris - then to the Theatre des Varietes - saw a representation of Private Theatricals by Zouaves in the Crimea - then to the Salle Valentino, a

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public ball-room with the same kind of an assembly as at the Jardin d'Hiver.

Friday, Nov. 16. I went first over to the south side of the river to see Ed. Anderson & Fanny. I found them beginning winter housekeeping in the third story front of a building fronting on a large place just above the Luxembourg gardens; Fanny looked really well - in better health than I ever saw her since she was a little girl - Ed. is a monstrous great fellow, with a big beard - but we were very glad to see either - and you have no idea how familiar their voices sounded - I told them all the news - and stayed with them till 3 in the afternoon - then went off in a vain search for Mr. Lefebvre, Count Rumford's son.

In the evening I went with Cary, Anderson, & Broadhurst (a friend of Ed's) to the Opera Comique, and saw a beautiful play, "L'Etoile Du Nord", the story of which is founded on Peter the Great falling in love with Catherine. - Saturday, Nov. 16. was mostly passed in walking about, making small purchases, & arrangements. in the evening, went to the Odeon Theatre & saw Dumas' play of the "Dame aux Camelias".

Sunday, 17. Breakfasted at the Trois Frères - saw service in Notre Dame, and the Pantheon church - the Museums in the Hotel de Cluny - in the Louvre, and the Pictures in the Luxembourg Palace. (See my Galignani's Paris Guide.) Dined at Mr. Masons (the Ministers) & passed the evening there with several Americans & Lafayette's grandson.

Monday, 18. Saw churches of Notre Dame de Lorette & St. Roch; a great funeral (attended by the Paris Bar) of a distinguished lawyer in the latter; then to the Exposition for the day - Passed the evening with Ed. & Fanny -

Tuesday, 19. Packed up - finished business - passport &c. went to the Ministers with Edw. A. & Broadhurst - then to the Hotel des Invalides - saw Napoleon's tomb - then to the Ministers of War. to enquire about Lefebvre. To Robert Houdin's remarkable jugglery in the evening -

Wednesday, 20. Left Paris at 9 a.m. by R.R. through St. Quentin, Erquelines, Liege, to Cologne - 21st - by R.R. from Cologne to Berlin -

Thought I leave for St. Petersburg, via Warsaw - shall inform you of my arrival promptly - all must write to me - with much love to friends I remain. Your aff. son. Josiah -

Paris, Nov. 16-20 1857 - Berlin, Prussia

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