

Villefranche, France

January 30. 1894

Dearest Helen: I told mamma that the same woman who wrote Sacharissa has also written the memoirs of Henriette, Duchess of Orleans and daughter to Charles I, and so a contemporary of Sacharissa's. I have also noted "Old Court Life in France," and "Old Court Life in Spain" both by Frances Minto Elliott, which sound as though they might be interesting. A Mr. King a first cousin of Mrs. Stockton told me to day that he had read and liked the format. I am now paying my good bye visits, for we are nearly ready to depart and will sail probably Monday the 5th. Our plans have been upset by the imperiousness of the Normannia. She sailed with stores

to meet us in Naples about Feb. 10; after
getting them we were to go to Malta. Now
the storm will not reach Naples before Feb. 21,
and the admiral thinks that will be too late
to go to Malta afterwards. Consequently, his
decision is to go to Genoa from here, put
the ship in dock there & have her bottom
painted and thence to Naples, giving Malta
the go by until we return from the Levant.
I trouble myself but little about it, although
I used going again to Genoa. I liked the
place very much, but the weather was de-
testable; and it is rather sad leaving a
place with so many friends to go back to
an odd sort. An entirely new place would
present some distraction. My friend Mrs
Schiff has given me a group portrait of
her three daughters and also at my special
request a dash over of each of the two

eldest - so I want mamma to order from the man in Newport who took
me when last at the War College one of those to them took, and to send
it to me - as I promised I would give one. You have seen of course
how many of our officers are being taken away and sent to the Ben-
nington. We get very good men in their place, but I feel much
annoyed by the change. I was used to and valued those that I
don't like having to break in with new ones. To-morrow I am
giving a breakfast to the four departing ones, having asked to
meet them the four young ladies of whom we have seen most
the two Schiffs and the two McCreas. Mr. Schiff and my-
self will make ten. I suppose they will leave the ship the following
day and the Bennington probably sail from here by the end of the week.

On Thursday, the 1st I am to breakfast at the Prospectum - a naval affair,
I understand, officers of the French fleet &c. This will bring us pretty
near the end of our festivities here, though I am to dine one evening last night
at the Schiffs - again! I intend to sleep at your uncle Kuhn's on Monday
after the breakfast, and hope that day I will wrap up all, or nearly all my
obligations. Your last letter complained of the interval between mine, but
I think you found that it was due to irregularity in the mails, & not to
my fault, though I have found Alice & Madeline up more opening time
by visits and fire has news to write than when I have been moving
about. I wish you would ask Murrain if both Mr. Sedwick is still
at St George's, and tell mamma to send me 100 more cards &
Stevens - unless she hears on good authority that we are going home.
Wednesday, 31st 10 P.M. My breakfast went off nicely - the Schiffs arriving from
one direction at 12.05, the McCreas from the other at 12.12. Goes as the station

and brought them all off in the fig. All an bright
talkash jils. Having had the Schiff by me, I
put Miss McCrea on my right, Mr. J. on my
left and scattered the others along. Mr. Rodgers,
Dewey, Cresap & McCray were the officers who an
leaving for the Bennington. In the midst of the
breakfast Mr. Raymond Rodgers came in
& drank pan of wine with us. The guests left
the ship about 3 and I went ashore with
them. I am to send now three of my
photos - one for mamma and the others to
each of the two young ladies - rather absurd
for an elderly gentleman with no hair to
speak of; but as I was asked & promised
nothing is left but to fulfil. You
have very tolerash reason to be jealous
of Rosie Schiff - if she were the
right age I should like her to go in
for her, and would be very willing to
have her for a daughter. As it is, she will

pass beyond the limit of any future. There
is one thing, however, that I would feel ^{for}; and
that is the pervading religious feeling without
which no human character is on the road to per-
fection. I fear they have it not. This reminds
me of your friends the Holts - I did not know
you had any relations with them. I have heard
that they were unchristians. Now I have no
wish to control your choice of friends, nor the
limit your range of thought - but do be
careful not to allow that miserable doubt-
ing feeling, based upon no reasonable convictions,
to find its way to your mind. Remember that I
certainly a man of brain, find the truths of
Christianity satisfying to my intellect & my only
firm support in doubt & trouble. Beware, there-
fore of the nerveless doubts of our age. If such come
to you, pray and study. God will not leave you in
the dark - but if you have not firm & study, shut
out doubt & refuse to listen to those who suggest
Remember that I, as any experience of life, tell
you that the truth of the Gospel is my firm conviction!

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Etats-Unis d'Amérique

