

1894

Naples, Feb. 18. 1894

My darling Daughter: I will begin by saying - tell mamma I am sending my precious manuscript of Nelson by the hands of Lieut. Thomas, late of the Pennington, who leaves us on the 21st en route to N.Y. I have asked him simply to put it to some good Express, Charges not prepaid by him: I own to a pang of fear as I think of the dangers of the sea &c - but there is no reason I should keep it longer here. After type-writing, please keep the original in some separate place - as 34th St - I can do little here, and have done little; but I intend to make the life of Nelson the great work of my own life - if given by God the time and opportunity. It is a very great subject, and very hard it is for me to bear the enforced abstinence from working steadily at it. But that, too, is as God's wills - so we will not complain. Our weather continues dull, & quite cold. The mountain tops of the Apennines in the distance are covered with snow, and trees

days ago even Vesuvius was heavily dusted with
it. In clear weather, the steam rising from the
summit is very impressive; but when our caet,
as now, it looks just like any other vapor,
and when not attentively regarded might be taken
for a series of clouds. Your letter of the 2^d is
the last I have from home, but very possibly
we may have a mail this afternoon. I am glad to
hear of you going to the theatre, but still more
of the number of visitors you are having on your
afternoons. That and the little society about Quorn
are a source of great pleasure to me, as I have felt
our want of social surroundings — not so
much for myself as for your children. For my-
self, however, I realize now that, through a
deadly conscience of time, the gadding of
Mie kept my mind diverted. At home I don't
miss it. My darling Miss Rosie (Schiff) is
disappearing into the dim distance — in truth
however I saw but little of her, found as I was
often. The youngsters naturally monopolized
her, and I talked to mamma. Two days ago a

letter reached me, forwarded from Villfranche, from a very old friend - Mrs. Harry Blake, Kitty Blake as she signs herself, because her name is Sarah - whom mamma will remember. I don't recall meeting her since Nellie was born and very sorry I was & miss this chance. She wrote from Cannes - near Nice - and expected to be in the latter shortly. We left just too soon. She asked about mamma, whether she was in Europe or not. Her husband was a Cousin of Mr. Frank Blake whom you may recall was at Newport when we were in the Hall cottage & again in the new College building. I am so delighted to see that the College appropriation will probably pass - more, I fear, for loss of victory than any other reason. I am proud now & feel that a man which has at its disposal the kind of work I have done so well, and can find no better ^{use} for me than commanding the Chicago, don't deserve much interest at my hands. I have also had a letter from Mr. Laughton, who tells me he has accepted an invitation to write a short life of Nelson for the series "English Men of Action." He says he hesitated as he "did not want to come in contrast with me;" which was a pretty turned compliment. I am immensely interested in Nelson, and the way I have taken of developing the subject seems to me the right one; at any rate it grows upon me and I think the portrait, as I give it, will grow upon the reader. I have seen the review of a book on music which I think I will order for your birthday - but send early in the summer so that you can read it at Quogue if you like it. I imagine it to be a treatment of the historical development of music. At any rate the author, Doctor Parry (Mus. Dr.) ranks among the first musicians of England. I fear the look out now is that the Chicago will not go home till towards fall - and also that Com. Ramsay is to remain Chief of the Bureau of Nat^l. The latter will be a misfortune for me & still more so for the navy. Feb. 19 This morning's mail brought me a letter from Lydo of the 4th Dist^l which mamma

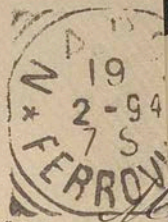
added a few words on the 5th March under 14 Inst
getting him which is longer than I have yet had.
When we leave here for Smyrna (a three weeks) pro-
bably on the 24th - I shall have a long wait & you too.
Tell Liza that I think the only thing the matter
with his handwriting is haste. The letter rec'd. to-
day is perfectly legible, and very fairly written.
The only thing is that with writing, as with
other matters, one must first learn to do
well, slowly, afterwards you can become
rapid. I am very pleased to know that
he is doing so well in all his lessons. Mr.
Thomas, who takes my manuscript, will
probably leave here on the 21st, day after
to-morrow, by the Wieland, a freight steam-
er which hereafter takes some passengers &
which is expected to arrive in N. Y. about
March 4 or 5. He said he would, if
possible take the package up & see mamma
& tell her she was likely to be at home
about 1 P. M.; & she would I presume want

to ask him to stop lunch. His wife may be in
N. Y., and if he calls, it would be nice if mamma
want to see her. I have no further news. It is
bitterly cold today for this part of the world -
down to 37. I have looked over your letter
but do not find in it anything particularly
requiring an answer - but do not think
I am not interested in hearing of all your
visits and your visitors, as well as the others.
I am sure I'd let you know if Mr. Sedwick
is still at St. Georges, for I keep reading
him in the Guardian, and now good bye
dear Child. Much love to mamma &
the other children

Your fond papa

A. T. Cleburn

Feb 18 - 1894



Miss Helen Evans ~~Staten Island~~ TRU

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