

Scutari, Asia -

Oct 27. 1879.

My dear Mother & dear Father.

It seems a long time since I have written to you, but I have been so occupied ever since I came here that it has been very hard to take time to write. I have hesitated, trying to decide which to do - to begin by telling you about today ~~or~~ "race la vers" but conclude to begin with today - a very interesting one it has been -

This morning an Armenian young lady came in to tell us there was to be a wedding, in the Armenian Ch' - a wedding in high life, & told us we could go. Ellie & William could not go as they are in Be beds, but I went. Mr Bliss took Mrs Wood & me. The Church was about as overflowing as our Church was at sister Mary's wedding - with this disadvantage -

that I was one of the crowd - not one of the guests. You know that in these churches here, there are no seats - We went to one of the houses - Do Bliss - for chairs & by standing on the chairs we commanded quite a fine view of the wedding scene - After waiting for some time the Bride - Bride's Father - Bridegroom & I think they called him Best man came walking through the church, with the relatives & friends of the Bride & Groom - The Bride wore a very handsome white silk dress - white flowers in her hair, & a veil - She was very pretty - Dark eyes, & hair - good features & pretty complexion. The groom a very sleek looking man dressed in American costume except his ~~feet~~ - which he wore nearly all through the ceremony - The church was brilliantly lighted with candles - There were five Priests & one Patriarch. The Patriarch is a relative of the Bride - his gown was exceedingly

handsome - It was scarlet cloth, embroidered with gold & silver, in the most elaborate manner you could imagine - Perhaps more so - There was a good deal of chanting in the ceremony, one place the Priests made a mistake, & the Patriarch told them in Turkish to "Shut up - Shut up!" was not that a dignified thing for a minister to say? You remember not long before I left home we were reading about the Bride & Groom having their heads tied together - This couple did not - There were two gold chains that one of the Priests put over each head but did not join them - tho' at the beginning of the service the Groom took his feet off & they put their foreheads together - & kept them so for some time, while the Groom had his feet off - it was taken to one of the Priests to <sup>be</sup> blessed. What seemed very strange to us was that the Best man

was treated exactly like the groom, except  
that he was not bound with the gold  
chain. The service was long - of  
course I could not understand it -  
We were all glad we had seen an Ar-  
menian wedding - also glad to get  
out of the crowd. At the close of  
the ceremony one of the Brides -  
maids fastened around the Brides  
neck, a most exquisite diamond  
pendant & gold chain - All the  
party went in carriages to the  
home of the Groom - It was a very  
funny sight to watch the Bride act  
coy - She never once looked at  
her husband while in the carriage.  
She seemed to try to entertain  
him - but she turned her head  
away & looked down - It did look  
too funny for her to be so coy in  
an open carriage - <sup>where all the towns could see</sup> But it is as  
much a part of the Bride as to look  
an act, as it is to be married at all.

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well! So ended the morning - We came home - had lunch - I took a nap & in the afternoon Mr Bliss asked me to go horse back riding - without my telling you I am sure you have decided that I did not refuse I had a nice horse - We started a little after four o'clock - We had a charming ride - The sun set was as handsome as any I have ever in my life seen - From the top of a hill & on our horses we got a magnificent view of it - Then to add to the gorgeousness of the sun & the clouds - their beautiful effect on the water of the Bos's, exactly behind us we had the moon - Ask Jennie if she remembers a certain night on Long Island Sound when the sun went down in the water as the moon rose, & however graphic

her description of that sweet may  
be. I think this one thought would  
compare well with it. After the  
side dinner & better still a letter  
from Jennie - for which I give her  
most heartly thanks - You cannot  
imagine how glad we are to get  
letters - Think how far we are away  
from any of our family - I also  
got a letter from Cousin Ellen

Brockenstone - In which she told  
me of Mrs Boodheads death & that  
cousin Mary would probably go  
to St Louis to spend the winter -  
How very sad about Ella Steaus death,  
It seems that there have already  
been so many changes at home since  
we came away - Ellie got a very  
sweet letter from uncle William in  
which he spoke affectionately of his  
niece Caroline - Dear uncle William  
I would love to see him - I am  
going to write to him soon -

As I am ~~backing~~ instead of going forward  
I'll tell you about our Sabbath - In  
the morning we went to Church here  
in Scutari - at the Home - Dr Wood  
preached an excellent sermon -  
His text was - "One thing though  
backest - Go and sell all that thou  
hast & come & follow me" - I am  
not sure I have quoted it correctly  
but you know the text - In the af-  
ternoon Mr Bliss & I went across  
the Bosphorus to Pera to the Chapel  
of the English Embassy - a very  
pleasant little building - We heard  
a very good sermon by Dr Washburne  
The President of Roberts College - The  
sermon was very like the one in  
the morning by Dr Wood - The text  
was - "Thou shalt love the Lord  
thy God - with all thy heart - etc"  
We had no service in the evening &  
my day ended early -  
On Saturday - the 25<sup>th</sup> - Miss Ottaway -

two English ladies. Mr Bliss & I went  
to the Mosque he went to St's Sophia.  
It is just like pictures you see - or  
I mean that it reminds you of pictures  
you see - tho' pictures can convey no  
idea to your mind of the reality.  
St's Sophia was once a Christian Church,  
but now since it is in the hands of  
the Turks it is of course made into  
a Mohammedan Church - or a Mosque. It  
- the Church is not built with the  
pulpit facing Mecca, so that as the  
people must worship with their altar  
toward Mecca it cannot be in the  
center of the arch but is put a  
little to one side, so the matting is  
put in a line with the pulpit -  
making the whole floor all the way  
with the building - There are a  
hundred & seven columns in St  
Sophia - They have been put there  
- donated by different of the  
Sultans & are exceedingly handsome

To get to the Gallery of St Sophia you don't go up stairs but up a hill built in the wall - It was made so that the people could ride up - The dome of St Sophia is as you know one of the wonders of the world - It is very large round & is supported on half domes - one built above the other, till at last all meet in one tremendous dome - with about fifty windows - gilded over the entire surface - When it was a church it was all covered with pictures, in mosaic - The Turks gilded over <sup>all</sup> the pictures to hide them from view - You know the Turks hate the Christians. I got some of the stories of the Moslems & will send one in my letter, then we went to Mosque Colonnada - That is the way to pronounce it but not to spell it -

That too is handsome - We also went  
to see the Tombs of Sultan Mahamud  
& others - The tombs were covered  
with velvet richly decorated with  
silver & gold - At the head of  
each is a red fez - They do not give  
up their fezes even in the square -  
We also went to the Thousand & One  
Columns - a place that was once  
an ~~ancient~~ cistern - & fountain -  
but is now used as a room in which  
to weave silks - We saw the men  
at work - In order to do so we  
had to go down steps for some  
distance under the surface of the  
Earth, Another ~~day~~ we saw was the  
Janizaries - They were Greek boys  
who were educated for the express  
purpose I believe to persecute the  
Christians - At any rate they did so

to an alarming degree - It is well for  
us that they are all gone now - Some  
of the Missionaries who have been here  
a long while say that they can re-  
member when it was a common thing  
for the Janizaries, to test the sharpness  
of their swords on the hands of the  
Christians, I am thankful they are  
now only represented in ~~name~~  
Ellis & Williams have been  
in Bebek since Saturday & are  
still there so that I feel quite as  
if I were off making a visit by  
myself - This part of the world  
seems every homelike to me - as much  
so - if not more than any place I  
have ever been except Oxford N.J. -  
The other day I came across the  
Bosphorus & walked some a mile  
alone, I can find my way to a good  
many places - which is much more agree-  
able



them to be entirely dependant - Tho' of  
course I believe in being extremely  
careful & cautious in all my doing &  
The time for returning is so near at  
hand that I think I'll bid you  
good night & good by - I know Ellen  
& William would join in love to you  
if they were only here so I'll send  
it any way - With a great deal  
of love to all at home - Uncle Selden  
aunt Ellen - Uncle Eugene & aunt  
Emmie - all the Cousins - & tho'  
last mentioned by no means forget  
my love to all the sisters & brothers  
& most of all to you my very  
dear Mother & Father -

Your affectionate daughter  
Caroline -

I wanted to have this letter look  
neat but I have such a  
horrid pen