

Lucca, Italy.

October 1<sup>st</sup> 1879-

My dear Father.

It seems a long

time since I last wrote to you -  
but really it is not very long since  
I left America, well. Here we are  
in Italy & at a charming hotel.  
We have rooms with doors <sup>connecting</sup> opening ~~to~~  
~~between~~ the two. Nice furniture & plenty  
of it. I am writing in my room, we hear  
music some where very near us that  
sounds as much like home as I have  
heard that I could easily imagine  
myself at home. Our house tonight  
is as pleasant as last night if not  
more pleasant & disagreeable. I must  
tell you about last night. I don't  
know whether you are aware of the  
fact that we are traveling on "Cookie"  
tickets - railway & Hotel. Well we

did get into the most dreadful  
cheating place <sup>last night</sup> that could be found.  
our tickets entitle us to dinner -  
Lodging & Breakfast bill. we had  
been traveling all day from half  
past seven & got to the Aix-Les-Bains  
about nine o'clock instead of having the  
dinner which would have four  
or five courses we had only - tea-  
bread & butter - & cold meat, we  
lodged in rooms without carpets  
in a horrid part of the town com-  
paratively - Had for breakfast  
dolls & butter, steak & fried potatoe  
three of us had Chocolate & the other  
had coffee - Coops tickets covered the  
expenses of all that, but the woman  
of the house - or land lady - or  
proprietress - demanded for the  
cold meat we had for supper eight  
francs - or a dollar & forty cents -  
four francs for waiters, four for  
ambulans - extra for bread, so that  
our bill which should have been paid  
entirely with the tickets, cost thirty two

francs - extra - It ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> thirty two It was  
the most cheat that ever I saw across,  
the worst of it was this woman and  
not speak my lish, but had her daughter  
a child of about ten years to cheat in  
english for her - Oh, it was the horrid  
cheating third class place I ever  
saw. Majorie is going to report the  
affair to Cook. we were all furious -  
Ellie said she had not been so mad  
since she was a little girl,

Today we have been in the cars ~~from~~  
half past ~~twelve~~ <sup>and</sup> till half past nine  
P.M. The day has been perfect - Hardly  
a cloud in the sky - & we have been  
wild with delight over the scenery.  
we have been in the Alps all  
day - It does one wonderful to  
look down at your feet & see all  
sorts of flowers & vegetables & on the  
top of the mountains that only seem  
to be a short distance from us seem  
The beautified grass covered mountains  
in the distance look almost like  
clouds - My subject is far beyond

my power of description - I never expect to see any thing so grand - or grander than I have seen today. I can't venture to tell you how many tunnels we have gone through today - but I should think as many as eighty or a hundred - Sometimes we would only be out of a tunnel for two or three moments before we would be in another.

I just think your youngest daughter has been through the longest tunnel in the world but Cais - he was in it twenty eight minutes - The wonder of the works of art in that were perfectly overpowering to me. But not so much as the works of creation - I just felt all day as if I must be thanking God for his wonderful kindness to the children of man, in his making for them such objects of beauty & grandeur, — I think after this I will be able to appreciate any curios

land scape painting — For today I  
have been continually seeing things  
that I never suppose existed in  
any other form than on canvas.  
Tomorrow we start again at half past  
nine for Milan — thence to Venice  
& if we have as delightful a day  
as today has been I am sure I  
would be content to keep on for  
a considerably greater length  
of time. This trip is hard for him  
for he has all the luggage etc  
attend to, besides he has no help  
from us in speaking the language  
but rather has to help us. When  
you get this letter I suppose we  
will either be in Constantinople  
or on the Mediterranean sea —  
I am hoping I will not be sea sick.  
I am also hoping that Ellen & Will  
will not be — but not with a good  
ground for hope as in my case —

I feel somewhat fatigued from my  
journey & think I ought to be  
taking rest to gain strength  
for tomorrow, so will bid you a  
most affectionate good night -  
with a desire that you will  
be able to recall this hasty  
written letter & a promise of  
a better one when once more  
I have a little more time -  
My very best & fondest love  
to darling little Mother - You  
& Mother are always in my  
prayers - Even & I do much  
love to all the family & you  
my dear Father & if it be for  
the best may you be relieved  
from your trouble is the hope  
& wish of your affectionate  
daughter Caroline -  
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