

Hôtel De La Paix -
Antwerp. Belgium -
Sept 25th - 1879 -

My dearest Mother.

If you could

only see us now I am sure you would
be rather surprised - for we four
are at the Antwerp Post Office at
a long table & all of us are writing -
I wrote you a card this morning in
Holland which I am sure will be rather
unsatisfactory - in consideration of which
fact I propose spending a little while
this evening with you. This morning
we found ourselves in Rotterdam & I
also found it a very different place
from England. We have been so much
stared at in England that we were
quite delighted once more to be in
a place where people seem to have
something of more importance than
staring to occupy their time. Rotterdam
is a beautiful place. Going from
the boat to the Depot we passed
through the most beautiful place. I

My dearest Mother
I am sure you will be
rather surprised - for we
four are at the Antwerp
Post Office at a long table
& all of us are writing -
I wrote you a card this
morning in Holland which
I am sure will be rather
unsatisfactory - in
consideration of which
fact I propose spending a
little while this evening
with you. This morning
we found ourselves in
Rotterdam & I also found
it a very different place
from England. We have
been so much stared at
in England that we were
quite delighted once more
to be in a place where
people seem to have
something of more
importance than staring
to occupy their time.
Rotterdam is a beautiful
place. Going from the
boat to the Depot we
passed through the most
beautiful place. I

Suppose it must have been a park. Had I asked information on that point I am afraid I would have received none, because I cannot speak Dutch - The Tram Conductor could not in the least understand us - William had some work to make him- self understood when he was attending to the bagage (once baggage - then luggage - now baggage) Ellen tells me she is giving quite a long & accurate account of the people of Rotterdam as I feel that I have very little to say - but will take a second class carriage more on toward Antwerp - we have had a perfectly lovely day - The sky has been something like our June sky - but the air is more like we have in October. I have often read of the canals & wind mills of Holland but never did I so fully realize what a vast quantity of them there are until I had seen them for my self. In Rotterdam there is a canal between every ^{two} streets. The wind mills make the country very picturesque - I think we must have seen a hundred on our way from Holland to Belgium.

One of the odd things about this part of Europe is the exceeding smallness of the trees, The ordinary size of the trees would compare well with those set out in front of our house this spring - They are kept cut off so that the branches come no lower than the knee trees too. The country is very flat - It is one vast prairie - The women do the work in the fields - we saw no end of them digging potatoes. They certainly look picturesque - but just think of women doing that kind of work, South it seem out of place? When we crossed the line from Holland to Belgium we had to one and all get out of the cars to visit the Custom house - making three times we have had the pleasure since we left our own country. Antwerp is a beautiful place, so very unlike anything we have seen before - Before this every thing has been so grimy & dirty but now every thing looks so clean & fresh - we are at a lovely Hotel. I think we must have had ten courses, The last was one peach for each of us. The first we here tasted this side of the water, we felt thankful

for it & hope some day we will get
another, we went to the ^{be able to} Autmorp Cathedral
but were too late to see the pictures -
The gallery only being open from twelve
till four & we not reaching town
in time. It is an exquisite building
beautiful inside & out. & of course it
is perfectly enormous - every thing
we see is gigantic, not every thing
either, for the shops are not nearly as
large as ours. The cottages are also some
of them very small, & extending by variety
with their tiled roofs - or thatched, &
then they have such lovely shapes - Tomorrow
noon we expect to leave for Paris - my
wonder is this. Can the beautiful Paris
be more beautiful than some of the
places we have already been. I suppose
it must be, as every one seems to think.
One thing I am sure will be more
beautiful & that is the mode of crossing
The English street just about as we
used to dress three & four years ago.
Only I think we never wore such silly
hats as the English do. I can't bear the
English - but I like Eng land very much.
Just think of all the countries we have seen -
^{Ireland} England - Wales - Belgium, Holland, beside
the Atlantic, The North Sea, English Channel,
Strait & soon to France & on to Turkey