

Vienna, Austria, Aug 10th 1881.

My dear father,

Mother's letter & your letter of introduction to Mr. W. W. Phelps were received yesterday, upon our return from Herrnhut, where we spent last Sabbath. We had already become quite well acquainted with Mr. Phelps, but William will take your letter tomorrow to the Embassy, for he is going to call to see Mr. Phelps before we leave. William knew him slightly before, - they were in Yale together one year, Mr. P. graduating three years ahead of W. - Soon after we came William called & Mr. Phelps greeted him very cordially. They had a pleasant visit in the course of which the fact was disclosed that Wm. had married a Scrautau. Mr. Phelps seemed much interested, & spoke of his acquaintance with the family, & visits to Scrautau when a boy. The next time Wm. called for letters, (which we had sent to the Embassy) Mr. Phelps seemed so interested in us, that Wm. invited him to call at our humble lodgings, which he did a couple of days after. The coachman came up in his fine livery, with the Ambassador's card, to see if it was convenient for us to receive him. It was, & Wm. went down to meet him, & ascend with him the 124 stairs to

our fifth story room. (Elevators are almost unknown in Europe,) I rather apologized for the height, but he turned it nicely by saying that when he called on the Emperor, he had to go up to the third story. He made quite a long call, & we, & he too, I think, enjoyed it thoroughly. He had only been here three weeks, & his wife was not with him, & he was rather homesick. We were charmed with him. He remembered playing with "Millie & Jamie" in Scranton, asked if Cousin Lizzie was as quiet as she used to be, spoke of Uncle George's having spent some weeks at his father's house during his feeble health, & remembered Aunt Jane & lots of other relations & friends of ours. William had told him before that my name was Ellen. He said "Then she must be Selden's wife's namesake." - - Two or three evenings afterwards when we were at Straus' concert, we saw Mr. Phelps at a distance. After a while he spied us, & came over to our table. We asked him to sit down, & after a little conversation he said that he wanted some refreshments, but did not like to eat alone, so begged us to partake with him, which we did. - He asked whether I was at Oxford during the financial troubles, & expressed a great deal of sympathy for all concerned, but especially for Uncle Selden at his time of life.

It never occurred to me that he did not know whose daughter I was, & at any rate I think it is very poor taste to talk about ones family. - Finally he said, - "You have been at Oxford a good deal, have you?" - "Oh yes," I said, "it was my home." - "Then you must know Charles Scranton almost as well as I do," he said. "I should think so," I exclaimed, "he is my father!" - We were both greatly delighted with the discovery, & he told me how you & I always work together at political meetings, - & particularly at the Trenton Convention before Fairfield's nomination, that you & Mr. Shipman were the means of his (Mr. Phelps') election, or nomination (which was it?) to the Convention. - He promised to call on us again, but soon after, his friend Mr. Nordhoff of the N. Y. Ev. Post telegraphed to him from Frankfurt to come & see him as he was sick. He returned from there just as we left for Prague last week, & we only yesterday returned to Vienna, so I have not seen him since, altho' William has, for a moment. I have written you fully about Mr. Phelps, because I knew you would be interested in hearing. - Mr.

Vienna, Fri. ev. Aug. 11. - I will finish this for Ellen, who is busy packing for our departure tomorrow. I saw Mr. Phelps today, & gave him your letter, with which he ex-

pressed great satisfaction. He was expecting to go to the boat-
race of the Cornell university boys with the picked oars-
men of Vienna, at 6 am. — we were not able to go, for
shopping. ^{I am sorry we must go without even knowing the result.} The Samolov people have sent us enough
excuses to keep us buying a neck for them; we have done
what we could.

Unless we are delayed — in which case I shall write
you again from here, without fail — we leave here on
the 7 am. boat tomorrow, 12th for Lou-palanka.
I do not know whether the arrangement of boats
will enable us to stop over Sunday on the way; &
Carrie has written us that the babies need us at home
as soon as possible. She has been very kind, & is
now out. We shall then probably reach Lou on
Monday some time, & should reach ~~of~~ Samo-
kov by Thursday, Aug. 17th. We shall go straight on
from Lou, day & night, as fast as we can go. I
shall write you early after our arrival at home.
I was very much pleased to receive your note to Mr.
Phelps, as also your letter to us. Please excuse my
disconnected & insufficient writing, as I am exceed-
ingly tired. But for present nearness, we three are
all well & have had a delightful vacation. I
wrote aunt Ellen from Kirscht. With our love to
all I am
Your affectionate son
Col. Chas. Scantow, Oxford N.J., U.S.A. W. H. Belden.