

Petersburg Aug 3 or July 22d for we are very lazy between our own + the Russian calendar.

My dear Dora. We arrived here in the middle of the day today + found Larry's letter of July 18th. We can't imagine why you have not heard regularly, particularly as Mrs. Suydam has done so, + the letters were posted together. At any rate, we have written "in a concatenation accordingly." So glad you are all well + happy. I trust dear little [Hip's?]'s hair won't come out darker + that he is well again. L's typewritten letters don't say anything but "All well" but we are glad enough to get them all the same. I am scratching "entre chien et loup," for there is some night here, to save the mail. We have been to [illegible] (only the untraveled say Saint to Church or City) + were amazed at its size + magnificence + the music was sublime!

But to go back to where Papa left you. We had to stay four nights in Stockholm, before we cld get a passage in the steamer + then we had to take the Captain's Cabin + all turn in together. Happily Mary, like Fanny Dorrit, has "no nonsense about her" + so we had a prosperous + smooth voyage. We stopped four hours at Helsingfors + landed to see what Finland was like. It was a handsome city + very civilized. Tomorrow we begin to sightsee in earnest. We shall deliver our letter to Mr. Wurts, + Dr. Wurts sent us another for the Hermitage is closed this month + we hope his interest may get us a sight. We hope the Winter Palace may be more edifying than the Palace in Stockholm, which was poor. By the way the king's title is "King of Sweden the Goths + Vandals + of Norway." Bernadotte "Charles XIV John" is a great hero here + one of the great adornments of the Palace is a huge picture of the Battle of Austerlitz with Bernadotte on a huge yellow horse "riding on the whirlwind + directing the storm" + Napoleon nowhere. We were much interested in the Riddarsholm Kyrka (the Swedish Westminster) Charles XII + Gustavus Adolphus + all the Kings buried there—except Christina—if that isn't a bull. We are so amused with the "Zachouska" before the meals, both here + in Sweden—Gin—sardines + little dabs of salt meat—raw fish + sausage—to be eaten before one sits down regularly (to say nothing of the horrid caviare). To see the people walk into it always makes me think of John Brodie picking round the table at the "[Saircyson's head?]."

The Nevski Prospeckt—the drozkies + their drivers, the statue of Peter the Great, the Kazan Cathedral are all as strange + queer as you could imagine. Our brains are in a whirl + goodnight. We are going to bed, after our two nights on the Baltic + the Gulf of Finland. They came at once for our passports + keep them till we leave for Moscow on Thursday.

We begin to think we must go to Nizhni-Novgorod, though it adds so much to the old folks fatigues. God bless you all. Next month we sail back to you, please God. Mary is wild with enthusiasm—but Anna can tire even her out + make her "cry enough." We think Peter the Great was a raving maniac to build such a place, but what a head! I love to think of the dear little children + their donkey. Love from all.

Mamma.