

W9/81/23 1 of 2

Chez Madame Hansfeld
5 Rue Berryer
Avenue de Friedland
Paris

Nov. 24th 1891.

My dearest Mother.

It seems quite a long time since I wrote to thee - but I dare say thou doesn't mind whether I address thee particularly if I write to somebody every week. I quite agree with thee dear - I believe I heard the remark the same - that I am a very good girl to write so regularly! Indeed I quite surprise even myself - but I think I have developed into a sort of machine that can reel off a certain amount at the given word. I am afraid very often my

2/
productions have a little that live. But never mind, they let you know that I am alive & flourishing & believe that is the better fulfilling the letter of the bond. I was not at all flourishing last night I had to go to bed without my dinner & a sick headache worse than of thee. They are a great nuisance these sick headaches - any extra exertion or excitement brings them on, also a chill - for like. Ah I find the cold affects my digestion. This week we are having it very cold. It is very cold going out at 8 in the morning & yet it is very hard to make up one's mind to go inside the room. Miss Earle is awfully nice & kind she cuddled me up ^{finely} last night when I was ill. I am glad my lines have fallen with her instead of Miss Lancelotti - not but ^{that} Miss Lancelotti is not very kind - but she is not near such a comfortable person to get on with.

She is always changing her mind about
every thing - & then she always remarks
on the disagreeables that are to be found
in every thing - & fusses about things
that can't be helped. - Knowing about
the world particularly as an art student
of limited means, it is invaluable to
have a knack of seeing only what one
wants to see & shutting one's eyes to
things that are not what you would
like but that you can't help.

Miss Earle & I get on splendidly to-
gether. We don't worry each other. We
each have a bedroom and as her
room is the larger we make a sitting
room of it & have a fire there. - Of course
we are only in in the evening. - We get back
from the studio about 5. Instantly we
put some water on to boil in one of little
spirit bottles - light the lamp & put a
match to the fire. - & then sit down & have
our afternoon cup of tea. Then we read

or gossip with - or word late 4 o'clock
when we go down to dinner in the
premiere or first floor. Madame Mans-
field has her pension in 'la premiere'
& 'la sixieme' where we are. There
are different people on each of the other
floors & in the attics even over our heads.
The people in the latter go up the
back staircase which the servants use
& which communicates with each flat.
Unlike an English man a French man's
house is not his castle not when he
lives on a flat any how perhaps when
he has his own hotel it may be
different. - Living in a flat every body
is in bondage to the "concierge". The
concierge represents the landlord whose
interests he looks after. He may be
either a man or woman sometimes
he is a married couple. Curs is an
old woman who lives on the rez de.

On the floor above & below are often a great worry they either disturb you or they say that you disturb them. I know that in the attics over as there are a lot of children who stamp about in the early morning & of a night - but the other day we found that all on this floor were disturbing an old gentle- man who lives below. It seems that he couldn't stand the door being banged & sent a request - that the key might be put in the door & it might be drawn to & shut in that way. Of course the concierge knows everybody that goes out in & most of their business & fancy. It gave me quite a little start the other day to hear that we as foreigners have to give a description of ourselves & our business in Paris to the police. Of course living here Madame does it all for us. & so we have no trouble, but sometimes English people taking a flat have a lot of bother. I heard the other day of two girls who had a flat & who didn't know of this rule & who got into a

W9/31/23

5 W9/31/23 2 of 2
chaussée or ground floor. As one goes into the little court at the entrance one sees her sitting at a window like a spider at the door of its hole. If the concierge is so inclined she can make it very unpleasant for her victims on the various flats. Gars here is rather an old friend. The people living in the house have nothing to do with the stairs - They are the concierge's particular property. Last winter she used to pounce down on Miss Carlo & declare that she didn't rub her feet properly. At the foot of the stairs there is a notice "Gardez vos pieds, & il vous plait." The other day ~~her~~ ~~water~~ ~~was~~ ~~seen~~ ~~coming~~ ~~thru~~ ~~the~~ ~~dining~~ ~~room~~ ~~ceiling~~ ~~the~~ ~~one~~ ~~right~~ ~~come~~ water was seen coming thro' the dining room ceiling. Poor Madame was in a dilemma. If she didn't tell the concierge about it she would be in a rage & yet she was afraid of offending the people on the floor above. The people

Frightful bother. Their concierge
led them an awful life. She let the
police ransack their rooms to see
if they were spies - & use to play
them all manner of tricks.

I must not write any more now as
Miss Earle wants to go to bed & it
is too late to sit in my own room.
Also it is just ten o'clock & time
we were in bed when we have to
be up & away so early.

Give James my love & thanks again
for his letter I got on Tuesday.
He is always regular. His was the
only letter I got.

Now, dearest little Mother, I must
say farewell. Take care of thyself
& don't sit up too late - I hope thou
gets out for a drive regularly.

Thy loving daughter
Mary
I enclose a prospectus of the Illustrated
I am going to. It may interest you all

I am so pleased that the postage
is only 2¹/₂ d now. Don't be putting
sixpence on the letters.

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Thy loving daughter
Mary

Enclose a prospectus of the Studio
I am going to. It may interest you all

I am so pleased that the postage
is only 2nd class. Don't be putting
sixpence on the letters.