

9-24-1858

Letter to Maria (Mamy) Du Bois, (daughter)

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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To dau - Mrs G.W. DuBois

Friday Sept: 24. 1858

My dearest daughter -

We arrived here to-day -
from our rambles in the Bernese Alps,
on our way to Mont-Blanc - & here,
besides letters from Aunt - we recd
your dear one of August 23 - finished
by a page by your pretty-good-worth of a
husband - I cannot deny myself the
pleasure ^{days} of a little quiet rest, this Evn,
of writing a short letter in return - I am
perhaps will find time to do so also, but
she has to work whenever she can - it
is a little drop which she brought with her -
& the day after we reached Liverpool
breakfasting at Mr Brown's where we got greeted -
I had to take it a part & have it carried
in London; & at Aix la Chapelle had to
pay duty on it, because they would not be
have it had been made up - To save any

more trouble of that sort, she is sewing
it up - & it keeps her busy - the little time
she can get for her needle - I am in a
capital traveller in all respects - I have
sometimes wondered she was not frightened
at some of the paper she had to ride over -
But she stops at nothing that I attempt -
& is all cheerfulness & spirits - enjoying the whole
travelling exceedingly - As I suppose my letters,
journalising our route, are sent to you, I
will not detail it now - I stayed, as to a
cousin - At Baden Baden we found one
who was there from Londⁿ - with an English
woman, who had gone there to gamble - &
whom he was desirous of leaving - We had
a high character of him I engaged him for
our whole party - Mr Gadsden & Annie - &
he proves a most valuable man - We
could not have done better - He speaks all
the languages - & sees to all our affairs - with
the attention of a faithful body-servant - at
the same time that he is an intelligent
well-read & very respectable man - a Protest-
ant - Hanoverian, but domiciled in Eng^l -
He is every thing to me, for as Mr Gadsden
knows nothing about the countries - or the ways,
I should have had the care & worry of seeing

about the affairs of the whole party - the
first, before we got the courier, I had all
that, & felt it would not do - Now I have
only to determine where we will go next
& when - & all the rest, even to brushing a
coat or mailing a letter, is seen to for me -
Our attentive courier thinks of every thing -
& does all we could devise - We pay him
£10 a month for his road expenses - & that
divided into three parts - Mr Gadsden -
Margaretta's & Annie's, makes it cheap con-
fidence - Washington urges me to go to
Rome - that I go to Rome!! I cannot
yet say whether I will or not - I expect,
at least, to go to Florence - & then, if the
season is late enough, perhaps I will
go to the city of Antichrist - Mr Gadsden
intends to go there - We have been favoured
with delightful weather for our mountain
excursions - in the Bernese Alps - & if you
knew what climbing I have done, you
have & footed up steep mountains - sometimes
four hours on foot - & not as much fatigued
as Mr Gadsden, a young & well man - &
counted a good walker - fresh next day
for more - without any stiffness or soreness -
you would think I had grown in strength

indeed, considering that a half hour's walk
before I sailed, perfectly exhausted me -
I am a wonder to myself - May all I
am permitted thus to gain, be conse-
crated to God & faithfully used in his
work - I intended to stop at Lausanne
tomorrow on my way to Geneva, to see
if Mr Gould is there - But from your letter
& from Mr Constable (Julia's Persephone)
who is here, you know, I learn that she
has left there for Italy - I shall try to see
her at Leghorn or Genoa - The weather
is too cloudy for Mont-Blanc to-day - so
that as tomorrow is Saturday, we will go
to Geneva for Sunday - & wait there a day
or two - & if the weather suits for Chamonix
we will go there - Otherwise as the season
for the Alps is getting late, we will walk
directly for the Simplon & get on towards
Milan &c - I am glad, dear Mary,
that you are in the country & enjoying
it so much - Oh! how sweet it would
be to have you with me - & wish to
stain & I sometimes better if how you
would enjoy it - how you would attempt
all - & do all - the full of spirit - would

y. - could have been with us in
the august & immediate presence of the
Jungfrau & the Wetterhorn & the Eiger &
listening to the thunder of their avalanches
seeing their torrents of snow & ice tearing
down from their awful heights, in great
ctracts, leaping from precipice to precipice,
would that y. - could have walked
with us on their glaciers & into their icy
caverns -

But dear Mary, it is eleven o'clock
& I must go to bed - I have written a
long letter to Dr. - & to-day have sent
a long one to your Mother & another to your
Uncle Rich - Tell Washington, to please
send the money he speaks of to my
brother N. Y. - mentioning what the object is -
He will give it the right direction -
Now good bye darling Nani's best love -
though she is asleep - Mine to Washington
& your darling children - The Lord bless all.
Your dear Father -

Write again - I hope Dr. DuBois' family was
not much hurt -

Geneva Sept. 27 -
We reached on Oct. the 25th by the Lake - spent
Sunday here - a nice English Ch. & good preaching

full of joy - I am as usual
all about Geneva - The 1st are to let tea
with Mr. Gamp - author of the book on
the Inspiration of the Scriptures - & D'An-
-bryne is to meet us there - would
not somebody - Charles the like to join
the party - The weather has cleared up
beautifully & we have the prospect of
fine skies for Chamonix - Whither
we expect to go tomorrow - Good
bye again, my Mary - my precious
Mary - The Lord's love be yours -

Your dear Father -