

Charles Pettit McIlvaine Letters

8-14-1868

Letter to Maria (Mamy) Du Bois

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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when they reached their
Hotel - All Chamounis' was
out to see them, for it was
considered a great thing for
him to be able to do - I am sent
in the Mont Blanc paper, in
which is a notice of the excursion
in which after speaking of Mons.
& Madame Meper (de Londres)
& the salute of canon when the
arrived, it said of the last, "it
was only a just tribute to la
jeune femme, because in
the opinion of the guides, the
ascent to the Grand Melets, in
consequence of the special condition
of the snow & increased width of
the crevasses, was equal in difficulty
to the whole ascent in ordinary

Annemette Aug. 14/18

My dearest Mary

I hope you have all been
brought through the hot weather
without injury - Your Mother & I
have borne it far better than
we could have expected - A few
summers ago it would have
most killed me - We have now
most charming weather for August -
a fine clear breezy air & very
cool nights - We have had three
letters from Nain since they landed
in France - The last which contains
an account of her ascent to

Chamonix perhaps the former
one I will send you when they
come back from Ben & Chley -
They reached Geneva from Paris
on the 14th & met Emory & Wm &
Isy there - exactly the appointed
day - thence they went together to
Chamonix - Ellice you know
Stann took out - By the last letter
we have a description of Stann's
long coasted excursion - which
was more than a dozen women
have ever made - the ascent
to the Grand Mulet - which is
the point reached by those who
are at the summit of Mont
Blanc, as their resting place
for the night - & for a short rest

morning so as to get to the
top by sunrise - their party was
Mr. Mefer, Mrs. Loppet, a Genevan
Artist, a patient friend of Mr
Mefer & who was with Stann &
was at Mont Rosa last summer
& a Russian, Prince Lavin of the
Empress's (Rupai) household - The
last ascent to the top - They achieved
the prodigious task, in due time
& spent the night at the Grand
Mulet - on the little hut there -
Stann was not fatigued as much
as the gentlemen - two of whom had
more than once been at the
top - They had abundance of guides -
They descended the next day by
2 o'clock - The Caravan was put
at Chamonix where by steps they
were seen at the Mulet - &